

The New Invention, 7th c
INTITVLED,
CALLIGRAPHIA:
OR,
THE ARTE OF
FAIRE WRITING:

VVherein is comprehended the
whole necessarie Rules thereof; by which anie
who is capable and carefull to learne, may with-
out the helpe of any other Teacher, under GOD,
both bee informed concerning the right writing of the
most usuall Characters in the World; and perfectly
instruced how to write one of the most
frequent in Europe, called
the SECRETARIE.

Brought to a Methode, for the universall use
both of the Youth, and of all who haue eyther war-
ted or neglected the occasion of Lear-
ning in their youth.

BY HIS MAJESTIES SCRIBE,
Master David Browne.

SAINCT-ANDREWES,
Printed by Edward Raban, Printer to
the Universitie. 1622.

With Priviledge

MUSEVM
BRIT

London: Printed for the Author by Edward Raban, at the Sign of the Rose and Crown in St. Pauls Churchyard. 1622.

The summe of the Authors Priviledge.

James, By The Grace Of God
King of Great Britaine, France, and Ire-
land, defender of the Faith; With speciaall ad-
vise and consent of the Lordes of Our Secrete Counsell:
In consideration of the exquisite Travels, and great
Charges made and sustained by our well-beloved Subject,
M. David Browne, in Inventing of this Worke, Ma-
king of Types thereunto, and Printing of the same: and
yet some that slept, when bee awoake in doing of the
same, may frustrate and prevent him in the expectation
of his so tedium and sumptuous endevours; and that by
divulgating of the said Invention in their owne favours,
if remedie be not provided. Therefore, wit ye Vs, with
consent foresaid, To haue given and granted, and by Our
Letters of gift, giue and grant unto the said M. David
Browne, his Heyres and Assigneys; The onlie Licens
and Priviledge to cause Imprint this Booke, as oft as
neede requireth; and that for the space of Manie yeares.
And to haue prohibited, and by Our foresaides Letters
probibite, All Our Subjects, that none presume to Print,
or cause Imprint the same either in English or Latine;
nor yet bring home, buy or sell anie extract thereof, With-
out the speciaall advise of the said Author, or his afore-
saides: Under the paine of 1000. Pounds Monie, to be
incurred by the Contraveners; wherof the one halfe to
redound to Our owne use, and the other halfe to his, or his
foresaides use, with Confiscation of all and whatsoeuer
Bookes shall happen to bee Imprinted, Bought, Sold, or
brought home, wherewer they can bee apprehended.



TO

~~John~~

THE MOST MIGHTY, AND RENOWNED MONARCH,

JAMES,

By the grace of God, King
of Great Britaine, France, and

Ireland, Defender of the Fayth,

Increase of prosperous Dayes

bere, & perpetuitie of felicitie hereafter.

T is sayde, (dread Soveraigne)
by Salomon, that great King of
Wisedome, Vertue, and Peace,
that *a Kinges favour, is like the dew*
upon the grasse: as if hee should
say, that the commendation, or

EPIST. DEDICATORIE.

Loving countenance of a King to Vertuous Workes, both encourageth the Workers, and maketh the Works more and more to flowrish within his Kingdome, according to that other Proverbe, *Virtus laudata crescit*. The efficacie and validitie of eyther of these, I, (though a verie meane Instrument of a verie meane Worke, haue found to bee accomplished by your Highnesse, (whom GOD hath endued as another Salomon, with the like Princelie Prerogatiues, whose Name therefore bee praysed) and that at diverse times, but chiefelie at your Majesties last beeing in your Highnesse Palace of HOLIE ROOD-HOUSE, after inspection of some of mine owne Exercises of FAIRE WRITING, with certaine rare practises of a nine-yeare-olde Disciple, which I then taught, & at your Highnesse superscribing of my former Priviledge, For the which Royall Testimonies, and espe- ciallie for the Priviledge, (which I esteeme the Seale thereof) I most humblie render all heartie thanks unto GOD, and to your Majestie through H M, in whome I hope to prooue your trustie Servant to the death.

In memorie, consideration, and boldnesse whereof, I haue both with the better courage, and greater expedition, enterprized and accomplished this difficult Taske, in finding out a way how Writing may bee learned by Reading: and that for the regarde I owe to the glorie of GOD, who

EPIST. DEDICAT.

who is the Author of all sortes of Vertue, of which the dexteritie of Writing is one, your Highnesse pleasure, who under *H I M*, is the maintainer of all Vertue, within your Royall Kingdernes, the Common-wealth of them all, which springeth from the Fountaine of all Vertue, & to mine owne credite, which I owe both unto *G O D*, of whome I holde my meane Talent, your Majesties selfe, Prince *CHARLES*, your deare and onelie Sonne, to all your Highnesse Loyall Subjectes of this your Majesties famous Realme of *SCOTLAND*, and especiallie the Secret Counsell, Nobilitie, Colledge of Justice, Vniversities, and chiefe Cities thereof: (where I was borne, brought up, and doe spende my dayes:) which (albeit not verie woorthie of it selfe, yet because it justlie belongeth unto your most Sacred Majestic, beeing both bred in your Highnesse owne Realme, and the first fruites of this kinde that ever did grow therein) I therefore, according as appertaineth, more for mine owne duety, than its valour, with heartie affection, moste humblie propine unto your Majesties most Royall Person, as Master of all the Ground, next unto *I E H O V A H*, (to remaine under the Sauegarde and protection of your Highnesse, and your happie Successoures favourable Patronage, and Imperiall authoritie, for a common use:) and I recom-

EPIST. DEDICAT.

mende your Highnesse selfe, with all your most
Princelie Progenie, to the blessed Tuition of
the most mightie KING of Kinges, during
your Reigne in the Earth ; and to HIS joy-
full Fruition, to reigne everlastingly with HIM
in the Heavens : In whome I rest, while I
breathe,

*Your Maiesties Subiect,
and humble Servant, —*

DAVID BROWNE



TO THE DILIGENT
READER, AND PRACTI-
ZER OF THIS BOOKE.



S no bight (good Friend) can bee
attained unto, but by the order of
degrees, beginning at the lowest,
and by little and little aspiring un-
to the highest, without omission of
anie; even so, no man can rightlie
conceiue any Science, Arte, Historie,

Discourse, except bee understand the beginning, mid-
st, and ending thereof, howbeit the usurping and covetous
inclination of all men, (for the most parte) would bee
in an instant at the verie bight of a thing, (as often-
times they imagine themselves so to be) before they passe
the first sixe steppes thereof, when as it containeth six-
tie: but in so doing, that their impatiencie oftentimes
throwes them farther down, than their furious imaginatio
raised them up. For as rash Writing proverb unprofitable
for learners to write; so hasty reading of the Arte there-
of, will avayle little unto those who would practise the
same, according to these Proverbes, which haue some
affinitie together, Legere, & non intelligere, neg-
ligere est: And oftentimes, The more haste, the
leſſe

To the Reader,

Iesse speede. The practise of the one, a great friend to Ignorance; and the other, a loving brother unto Ydleness. And as hee is not the owner of the Fruite of an Orchard, who leapeth in over the Dykes therof, and pulleth the Fruites before they bee ripe, not daring to enter at the Yate of the same: even so hee who turneth owre manie Leaves in the midst of a Booke, without due consideration what is contayned in each one particularlie, and orderlie, (with the revolution thereof) as it standeth, and entereth not at the beginning, may well gett some tasting of greene Fruite, to asswage his appetites while, (though bee spill his Teeth:) but the right use of all indeede belongeth unto him, who is the Master of the Keyes and Entrie, walketh thorow orderlie as he listeth, and biut plucketh as bee eateth. Wee see they are not the fattest Sheepe which make most travell, and over-hale their meate, when they haue plentie; but those which make a slowe pace, rest themselues oftentimes, and ruminante, or revolue, that which they gather.

Therefore, since there is little pleasure, without some industrie, and that few thinges can be blowne up at once, like Glases, neyther by action, nor consideration; haue a little patience, (I pray thee, both for thine owne profit, and my credite) to reade, consider, and practise this Worke, even forwardes, as it is set downe, without any omission at all, and as little intermission as thou mayest, lest thou hardlie escape the former inconveniences, and by occasion thereof blame mee innocentlie for thine owne fault.

I confesse, it is farre yet from that sublimitie of stile,
whereas

And diligent Practiser.

whereat I hope it will bee: yet accept of it as it is, (as a Pledge of my Loue) untill it shall please G O D that I amende it: for the Building can bee but sober, which is begunne, accomplished, plenished, and garnished, all in such haste, without bo: b longer deliberation, and greater preparation.

If anie parte beeroef may seeme eyther obscure or doub:full, (as I trust there bee fewe) misconstrue not mine intention and meaning therein, because it rendereth to by weale, in so far as I am able: but I adviſe thee to ſeek resolution rather of thone who bee well experimented, than eyther to rest in diſcontentment, or yet pronounce rash Sentence againſt a partie unſummoned: for ſometimes a fault will appeare to bee, where it is not.

And if thou, through thy diligent ſearching, and ſevere examining, finde ſome indeede, (as at this time I cannot altogether cleanse it) judge verie charitabile: and the rather because it is farre eaſier to finde a fault in a worke even well wrought by another, than to worke the like thy ſelſe without a fault, found by ſome other who perhaps cannot doe ſo well. I haue ſeene a young Maſon, that could ſcarcelie hew a ſtone, ſpite a defect in a fayre Palace, accidentlie in one day, which an hundred, each one whereof more Skilfull than bee, haue bene ſeven yeares in building.

So, it is verie eaſie unto thee, hauing as it were another mans Candle in thine hand, to beholde him, and his doinges therewith: for thou holding it up unto him while as bee writeth, and thou the meane time ſtanding yidle thy ſelſe, thou mayſt eaſilie perceiue when bee writeth wrong:

To the Reader,

wrong: because, though his face bee towrdes the Paper
as thine is, yet his minde is bended to manie airtbes at
once, and thine onelie to one: bee bath to consider, and to
choose out of manie thinges what is best to bee written,
as also both what bee bath written, and bath to write,
the Matter, Inditement, Method, Language, and Letters;
but thou hast onelie to take notise what is done, and the
manner of the doing: bee bath not onelie thee to please
in his doinges, but another who perhaps bath as ca-
rious an head, and yet of a contrarie minde: the third
of another opinion: and so foorth. And therefore, though
one man could doe never so well, it is verie hard, yea, im-
possible for him to please multitudes, because of his
one opinion, device, plotte, and conceite, and of their plu-
ralitie and diversitie of opinions, devices, plottes, and
conceites.

In like manner, because it is farre easier to finde
fault, than mend a fault, if in my time thou come speeche
by finding, I hope thou wilst play the parte of a discreet
Premonitor, and eyther advertise mee thereof mildlie and
favourablelie, that I may timouslie amende the same, in
the next Impression, (GOD willing) and I will give
thee heartilie thankes for thy good will: or if thou will
not, I beseech thee, to passe by the same with silence and
modeſtie, untill it bee repaired, eyther by mee, or some
other. But if otherwife thou make choyſe to declare the
same to others, who perhaps will rather make it ridicu-
lous, by jesting; than blameleſſe, by amending, thou ma-
nifestest as much thine owne follie, as my negligence
for none lie without faulkes, and though thou commis-

And diligent Practiser.

not such, yet perbaps an hundred worse daylie: for in so doing, thou both wisthest, and seekest, rather the infamie of one, wherewith to feede thy solatious and phantastick bewour, than the common weale of all, wherewith thou art bound to rejoice.

Againe, if indeede thou makest choyse to become a Challenger and detracter of others, by thy scandalous or slanderous reporte, it is a sure token that thou art destitute of wisedome and discretion thy selfe: yet if thou hast anie courtesie, or gentilitie, though never so little, I am perswaded thou wilt neither steale a dint of mee behinde my backe, yea, scarcelie before my face, untill thou first adverteise mee, that I may bee as well guarded with correspondent weapons to defende, as I haue beere armed thee wherewith to persue: I meane, thou wilt not fayle first to choose some new Subject, which hath never beeene amplelie written of before, (without anie colouring of other mens Workes) and write as largelie thereon, as I, under G O D, haue done of this; that, if it bee possible, I may catch the like advantage thereby of thee, and pay thee home againe therein, by shewing thee at the least a Moate in thine Eye, when as I haue remoored the Beame out of mine owne eye: or else if thou wilt not, but remaine a Coward, or an emptie Vessel, making a great noyse, and yet contayning nothing but wind, it becommeth thee to holde thy peace altogether, and containe thy wind within thy selfe, rather as blast it foorth upon others.

So having no farther occasion in this place, to detaine thee from this good occasion it selfe, I remit thee thereunto;

To the Reader.

unto: onelie entreating thee, whether thou bee a friend
or a foe, as thou takest holde thereof, to gine G O D the
praye of what profit thou reapest hereby: and as for my
H I S frayle Instrument in this bealfie, if I incum
no disprayse, I shall rest fullie and gladdie contented.

Thus, wishing the event of this thy busynesse, to
be according to mine expectation, good will, and affection
For, if thou bee a Friend, Nature teacheb mee to loue
thee: and if thou bee a Foe, Grace teacheb mee to for-
giue thee, yea, and to render unto thec good for evill:
howsoever, therfore, thou behavest thy selfe unto mee, I
freelie forgiue thee, and doe recommende thee nowe and
ever, to the favour of the A L M I G H T I E;

In vvhom I am bound

To favour thee as my selfe.

D. B.



TETRASTICHA.

SALOMON, ECCLESIASTES IX. X.

that good work thou canst devise, delay not to enterprise,
while as Breath, Skill, Strength, & Aide thou mayst haue:
nor thou'l want Invention, Wisedome, and Intention,
after Death, when thou art layde in the Graue.

PIBRAC, QVADR. 68. PAG. 719.

learne the most needfull Arte, bende thine affection,
ther than seeke all, and get nothing well:
true chieflie in thine owne, to attaine Perfection:
it is no small honour to excell.

IBID. QVAD. 63. PAG. 718.

ow manie might (in time) haue wise beene made;
fore their time, had they not thought them so
that Artist e're was Master of his Trade.
hee began his Prentiship to knowe?

CATO, Lib. 4. præcep. 29.

But extended and applied unto Writing.

whosoever to learne is no shame to anie,
ignorance both shame and Skaitb to manie:
d though in a yere thou canst little Latine attaine,
in one day thou mayst learne to write thy Name.



ON THE BOOKE.

Wherfore, O SCOTLAND, art thou called so barm
Since in Thee such abundance of Vertues breake
All sortes of Policie, rare and singular Men,
And having such plentie, wherewith thine owne to ffe
Nations haue at thine high Cedars admired ;
Such as Wallace, Buchanan, and manie one more
Some for Valiantnesse, some for Learning revered,
And manie other Giftes ; which some haue yet also,
With whom, why may not this worthie One be counted
Whose charitable Travels heere are worthie of praise ?
For bath bee not all before him farre surmounted,
In this most renown'd, and profitable exercise ?

By which he honoreth his Coutrey, Friends, &c
Beside the winning to himselfe of endlesse Fame

D. A.



IN THE PRAYSE OF
WRITING.

R Ejoyce all Writers, who liue by the Penne,
For your Arte with Royaltie is clad:
The honour whereof lay bidde amongst Men,
But now is universallie spread.

Rejoyce all Engravers, and Yee that Found
Types for Letters of Writ and Print,
Since the Spring of your Cisterne doth abound,
And now runneth ou'r the olde extent.

Rejoyce all P R I N T E R S, whose Calling depends
On Writing, that most auncient Arte:
For it your chiefe from whence yours descenderes,
Is promoted in everie parte.

Rejoyce all Learners, who may, when yee list,
Learne all times, by this magnifique Worke.
And All giue G O D prayse, who doth so assist
This your Patron, that excellent Clerke.

I. S.

THE ARGUMENT,
COMPREHENDING THE
PREROGATIVES OF
FAIRE WRITING.



Lthough this Subject may seeme base, not being great matters, but BARE LETTERS, yet it is worthie of great promotion, both because it maintaineth al other Subjects, as shall bee declared (GOD willing) heereafter, and that the right performance of the action thereof, called WRITING, is an Arte as Honourable, Needfull, Profitable, Rare, Auncient, Noblie descended, and consequentlie as Excellent as anie other, which I prooue by forcible Reasons.

It is Honourable, for two of the most chief, the one grounded upon the rare practises of the most bleisid, great, and rare PATRON, because it not onelie pleased Him to honour it, in writing of the Tables of the Lawe with His owne Sacred Hand; (spoken so for our capactie:) But His Bleisid Sonne, our onelie Sa-
viour

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viour, bowed Himselfe in the Temple of Hierusalem, and wrote on the ground. The other Reason, taken from the practises of Man: for is there anie King or Monarch in the World, who applieth not himselfe to learne this Arte, although he should neglect and forgoe all others?

Needfull, for other two Reasons: the first, Tending to our Eternall happiness: for it was inevitable and necessarie that the Worde of the L O R D should bee written, that it might endure for ever: And though the use both of Writing, and of all that is written will expire at the Day of Iudgement, yet the same verie Worde which now is written will endure eternallie; because it is eternall, as both Hee is Eternall from whome it proceedeth as the Author, and Hee who is not onlie the Subject thereof, but the verie W O R D it selfe: Who by it will pronounce the Sentences both of Absolution and condemnation at that Great Day: and rather ere Hee suffer one jot or Letter thereof to be voyde or remaine unaccomplished, Heaven and Earth will passe away. And the second reason, tending to the weale of our temporall estate, because without the use of Writing, and Letters written, no Estate in the World could stand: seeing it not onlie keepeth constant memorie of Promises, Rightes, and Duties, betwixt man and man, from Generation to Generation; but likewise goeth in Ambaſſage from

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Nation to Nation in all effaires, expressing mens
Mindes whose persons bee absent, as if they
were present. Indeede, without the use of
Printing, the Estates of the Worlde might
stand, like as they did more than 5400. yeares,
for it is not aboue 200. yeares yet since it began
to flowrish: and so there is not so great necessitie
in the use of Printing, as of Writing; for Wri-
ting must needes be, or else there could be litle
Civile order; but each one circumvene and
spoyle his Neighbour without remedie of Ju-
stice.

Profitable, for two respectes also: first, be-
cause universallie as manie liue by the practise
thereof, in good estate, as by the practise of anie
other Arte: and next, because Printing could
scarcelie ever haue beene, if Writing had not
beene first: for Printing was not onelie first de-
vised by the occasion of sweirnesse in writing,
and in-holding of maintenance to Wrjters; but
likewise the first patterne of printing Chara-
cters, was made conforme to written Letters:
yea, Printing could scarcelie yet continue, if it
were not up-holden, and maintained by Wri-
ting: for what Booke was ever, or can bee yet,
so well and easilie printed, as that which was,
and is first written; whereby it is certaine, that
Printing is as inferiour, as it is posterior unto
Writing, and that for three causes: first, because
upon everie occasion the mindes of men may

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bee farre better signified unto others in sheduls, and their promises performed, or at least, urged to performe, in securities, by the meane of Writing, than of Printing; seeing the one serveth in doing, preserving, and multiplying of anie thing while it is in doing: and the other, but to preserue and multiplie extractes of a thing alreadie done. Secondlie, because Writing is practised by manie, not onelie because it is necessarie to all, but both because it is easie of it selfe, and the meanes thereof easilie carried; whereas Printing is onelie practised by fewe, since it is neyther needfull for everie one, easie to practise, nor the meanes wherewith easie to transporte, yea, though even made in the moste rare and compendious manner. And thirdlie, were not by occasion of the worthie exercise of VVriting, (as I haue sayde) howe could there ever haue beeene anie such preservation of Learning by Printing? anie such manifestation thereof, by multiplying of Bookes printed? and by consequent, ever anie such immortalitie, and universalitie of fame purchased eyther through Learning, or valiant deedes by mortall men, as now there bee, of some renowned, in all Ages past? for a mortall fame, that is, an unwritten fame, may well surviue him unto whom it belongeth, and continue the next generation after, but is rarelie found in the second, except of some rare person: so then, if the famous remeber-

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rance of renowned men had aye died when theinselues died, through defect of Writing, what could they haue left of all their endevours behinde them? for was not Wisedome, Honour, Learning, Riches, and such others, in the Worlde before them?

Rare, because by all appearance the secrecie and hidde knowledge of all the precepts thereof, hath not beene clearelie revealed to the Youth in former Ages, yea, is scarcelie yet, in anie Schoole whatloever, except where this Booke is diligentlie taught. And surelie I marvell that so manie Volumes haue beene written on all Subjectes, Sciences, and Artes, (except this Subject and Arte) in all Nations, in all Ages, and by all sortes of people, shewing perfectlie howe to attaine to the right knowledge and practise thereof; as also, that even so manie sortes of Exemplare Bookes of fayre writ, are printed, and extant, and yet none haue shewed anie perfect way how to followe them without a guide, by writing the complete Arte of Writing it selfe! It is true, some Writers, of some Nations, haue written some preceptes, howe to follow some of the most usuall formes of Writ amongst theinselues; but never anie *SCOTTISH* Man hath left anie preceptes behinde him, how to write anie forme, eyther usuall in his owne Countrey, or else-where.

Auncient,

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Auncient, because certaine it is, that Literature hath beene from the beginning, and not onlie flourished long before the Deluge or Inundation of Waters, amongst the curious Inventors of Sciences and Artes, as appeareth by the charitable regarde either of S E T H , or some other, who for the benefite and weale of the posteritie, caused write or graue the same on two pillars, the one of Tyle, to abide fire, and the other of Stone, against water: but likewise, not long after the Floode, amongst the Ægyptians, as is evident, both by the Skill of M O S E S , who beeing trained up in Ægypt, that read the Tables of the Law, as soone as he sawe them, and of the moste parte then of the Israellites, who beeing participant of the same education, that doubtlesse could haue done the like action. And though sufficient warrand could not bee produced, for approbation of these Assertions, yet naturall Reason cannot bee prejudged, nor frustrated of its owne place: for what Librall Science or Arte can bee older than Writing, since everie Librall Science and Arte be-hoooved to bee written, both for helping the memorie of the Author in inventing, and of the Studentes in learning: (howbeit Socrates in his time, was of the contrarie opinion) so it hath pleased G O D , by the meane of Writing not onelie to nourish and traine up, all Sciences and Artes in their infancie and minoritie, but

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principallie to defende them so in their full age
and majoritie, against all assaultes of the igno-
rant, who ever haue beene, and yet are, profes-
sed enemies to Learning, that aye when as they
destroyed anie worthie worke in one Booke, it
was found againe in another: and hereby also,
GOD bee praysed, was *Antiochus* disappointed
of his malicious and devilish attempt, who
commaunded to gather together all the Trans-
sumpts of the Sacred *BIBLE*, (as he supposed)
and then caused burne them in a terrible fire.

And Noblie descended, because no Arte hath
an Author more noble nor excellent, because
the Author thereof is infinitelie aboue all No-
bilitie and Excellencie: for doubtlesse GOD
Himselfe, who is the Author of all Goodnesse,
first devised and ordained it, as a thing good al-
so of it selfe; and that eyther immediatelie as hee
marked *Kaine*, with some hieroglyphicall or
enigmatical letters, one or moe; by the Senten-
tiall signification whereof, hee was perfectlie
and notoriouslie knowne to bee a Murtherer: or
mediatelie by enduing others with the rare gift
of Invention, as he did manie Artificers, eyther
at the building of the Arke, in the dayes of
NOAH, or at the building of the Tabernacle, in
the dayes of *MOSES* and *AARON*, or else at
that incomparable building of the Temple of
HIERUSALEM, in the dayes of King *SA-
LOMON*. VVhereby it evidentlie appea-
reth,

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reth, that this Arte hath beene invented by Divine inspiration; for doubtlesse as the Heavenlie Scriptures are concluded with this caveat, *Let no man presume eyther to adde unto them, nor diminish from them, because they are so absolute, complete, and perfect, that they containe all thinges necessarie unto salvation:* so it lay never in anie mans power in anie Age, eyther to adde or diminish a jote, to or from the number of those Letters which it pleased GOD to ordaine, as so manie strong Holdes, Castles, and Yron Coffers, wherein to preserue these our happie Evidences, and heavenlie Rightes, from the violence of all Tyrants, and enemies of the Trueth whatsoever: and for as few in number as these Letters bee, they not onelie over-flowe all the Bookes in the Worlde, and containe the Languages of all Nations, (although indeede fewer of them doe containe some Languages, than others) but thereby anie that are nowe living, may know the minde, and disposition of a man, who died a thousand yeares agoe, & so in some sorte haue conference writh him: which is no small Miracle, were not custome thereof (as of manie other thinges) breedeth contempt, and misregarde!

So if all these Reasons bee rightlie weighed and considered, who can justlie denie, but the *ARTE OF FAIRE WRITING* ought to bee as well *ESTEEMED*, because it is as *HONOURABLE*.

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RABLE; as well MAINTAINED, because it is as NEEDFULL; as well EMBRACED, because it is as PROFITABLE; as great IN REQUEST, because it is as RARE; as high IN PLACE, because it is as AVNCIENT; and as well REGARDED, because it is as NOBLIE descended as anie other Arte? And thus much concerning the Renowne, Necessitie, Vtilitie, Raritie, Antiquitie, Authoritie; or, to reduce all in one, the EXCELLENCE of the ARTE OF FAIRE WRITING.

For the which principall Causes then, (as well in the *Epistle* as here) and diverse secundarie, which doe follow, I haue made choyse to publish this Arte.

First, because of the measure of Skill I haue from the *ALMIGHTIE*, and considering that I might justlie bee called an unjust Steward of such a Talent, if I should choose rather to haue it buried with mee in the Graue, after I haue

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haue served mine owne use therewith, than to publish and distribute the same to the weale of others, both in mine owne time, and after: which (I hope in GOD) will doe more good to anie carefull Scholler in one daye, nor possiblie anie Master Writer in three, without the helpe of this Booke: because a viewe of the whole Arte may bee better seene, yea, resumed and considered in one day, by private and particular reading, than understoode in manie dayes, by his common and ordinarie instructing: and though both were alike possible, yet it remayneth impossible to anie Instructor, howbeit never so cunning, eyther to doe the same in such short space, or, although hee could, to endure with so great paines. Whereby it cannot bee valued, (GOD bee praysed) nor enough considered, what great good the pluralitie, universalitie, and conformitie of Bookes, multiplied conforme to this Booke, will doe abroade henceforth, (if it please Him to make way therunto) and that in manie places at one time, and after one manner, to infinite numbers, as well of Masters as Studentts, as farre beyonde and aboue all their disconforme practises of Arte, as Right and Vniformitie can bee beyonde Wrong, and Disconformitie.

Secondlie, because not onelie Writing is a speciall meane whereby the Youth doe attaine to other Learning, in all Seminaries thereof,

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as well Schooles as Vniversities, but ip like
manner Letters written, are the strong founda-
tions, and fundamentall stones, whereon that
Great VNIVERSITIE or ACADEMIE of all
LEARNING standeth, the sure Boxes, wherein
the rich Treasures of all Learning are firmelie
inclosed, (which none can open but those unto
whome it pleaseth GOD to lende the Keyes of
Interpretation) and the costlie Ringes, precious
pearles and jewels, whereout of the bright Dia-
monds of all Learning doe shine: Hence it com-
meth, that a learned man, is called a Lettered
man; and Letters cannot justlie bee called Let-
ters, at the least well knowne to bee Letters,
except they bee rightlie framed, and lineallie
set; neyther yet can that bee done, without right
information and instruction; nor yet right in-
formation & instruction had, but by such as be
experimented.

Thirdlie, because there is not such unifor-
mitie kept amongst Masters of Vulgar Schools
anent the grounding and trayning up of the
Youth, in this vertuous and necessarie Exercise,
as neede doeth require; but each one teacheth
in some pretended manner of his owne, pre-
ferring the same to all others, though hee can-
not defende, nor prooue it to bee right, by anie
relevant reason, warrand, or perfect rule: where-
upon it followeth, and occurreth, that young
writers, unsurie grounded, leaving one instru-
stor,

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tor, and going unto another, lose and forget the moste parte of all that they first learned; which is no marvell, because few of their forms of instructions doe agree, as sayde is: while as in Latine Schooles, when a Student goeth from one to another, hee needeth neyther ascende nor descende, but proceede from that selfe same Rule of Grammar, where hee left off; which is a thing verie commendable: because everie man is not tied to remaine constantlie in one place, although hee even haue heritable dwellinges; and therefore hee findeth it meerest, that his Children bee educated where hee himselfe remayneth. The chiefe reason of this uniformitie and universalitie of Latine, is, because there are constant, uniforme, and absolute Rules universallie for the same, like as there bee for all other Learning, except onelie Writing: and the disconformitie thereof, and defect of Rules for learning of the same, are the chiefe causes, not onelie that fewe mens writ, (except those who write the universall ROMANE Character) prooue anie more profitable for their use, than their natuie Language, when they resorte to anie forraine Nation; but likewise of the scarcitie of those who bee both fine Schollers, and fayre Writers, and of the raritie of those gifted with Fayre Writing, in regarde of the great plentie propined with Learning: For if in times past, there had beeene as conformable and universal

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versall Rules for Writing, as for other Learning, or yet now for it selfe; why might no Learned men haue attained thereunto by the owne private Studies, as unto farther Learning?

Fourthlie, both because there bee some of middle age, who regrate the want thereof in their youth, and some that rew the neglect of the meanes; seeing hardlie can the one sort redeeme the time, or the other reduce the occasion: and for either of them this Booke vvil (with the L O R D E S assistance) bee a soveraigne remedie; seeing by perusing thereof a manie of either sort as be capable, desirous to Learne, and intend not to goe or returne to anie Schoole, may yet obtaine their intent: and that by carefull Reading, and studying to performe that which they reade; even as well as a meane Scholler beeing diligent, may by his owne private travels, attaine to a great part both of the knowledge and practise of anie Science or Arte, in reading of Learned Mens Workes, who haue pathed the way, and made it straight and plaine before him.

Fiftlie, because there be fundrie Students in Universities and Schooles, who wanting the occasion of Learning to write within them, sorte in the midst of their course daylie to Vulgar Schooles at certaine houres to bee taught; which, as it is incommodious, both because of

the

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the libertie and distance of place; so it is prejudicall to the course of their studijs, since thereby they protract so much precious Time, that oftentimes their Skill proveth and commeth too short for their place: for what they haue Learned, is better than how farre they haue Learned; I meane, how much they haue profited, is better than how farre they haue proceeded. Againe, in observing of these dyets, they must not onlie bee absent when their Condisciples are present, and oftentimes most diligent, but will neglect the Latine language in familiar conference, and louse the raignes of the maternall or Mother tongue; yea it may bee added that because they see greater ease in these Schooles, than in otheis where they haue a greater Compt daylie to render, manie of them doe contract such a custome of tweerenesse, that shorthe they will bee forced to renounce all Learning, saue onlie Writing, who perchance would both haue beene Cunningmen, and sufficient Writers, if the sight of the entrysing objects at these occasions had not interveaned. For remedie whereof hencefoorth, this present Worke will be sufficient; and the more, because I intend to haue it published also in Latine, whereby they may learne this Arte in the Latine tongue, as easilie as anie other, or yet in place of anie other Author, and nevertheless procede in their course of other learning.

Sixtli,

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Sixtie, and last, because there arise such contentions amongst Fayre Writers, through diversitie of opinions of Writ; and some times one of common Skill, esteeming moste of his owne Writ, at the least, conceiting altogether of some other, which hee thinketh an *A-per-je*: and that none can bee a Competent Judge, in deciding of these Debates, for lacke of a Grammar which should containe the whole Rules of Arte whereupon to ground his Sentence: which defect proceedeth of the great carelessness of all Fayre Writers, in all former Ages: for it is contrarie to the pratique of all such other incidentes and occurrences: because in anie question, or disputation, amongst Schollers, concerning anie Science or Arte whatsoever, Judges may not onelie discearne betwixt Right and Wrong, but even qualifie their determination by lawfull warrandes, and constant Rules, except onelie in contentions for writing: and yet not that I loue, or admitte contention, but doe use all meanes to make peace: for instance, who can justlie say, that the Civill Lawes were ordained to make discorde, but rather concorde amongst all estates?

And thus I, (at the pleasure of GOD) being stirred up, by due consideration of all the former motiues, doe my meane endevour to suplie all defects, &c to reforme all absurdities, and that

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that by downe-setting of an infallible patterne or right Touch-stone, of Fayre and perfect VVriting, and of a soveraigne Remedy, or Recipie, for wrong and incorrect writing, both in one following heereafter: whereby henceforth all right writing may not onelie bee knewne, and accordinglie framed; all wrong writing viuelie discearned, and altogether eschewed, and all errorees, which seeme indifferent, exactlie corrected: but likewise all contentions for whatsoever VVriting so decided, as that the decision may, by Rule of right Reason, be warranted: and the worke wherein anie fault shall happen to be, eyther perfectlie renewed, or fullie rejected.

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THE
ELEMENTS AND
CONTEMPLATIONS
OF FAIRE VVRITING:

Containing the Definitions, Ob-
servations, Probations, and Divisions
of the Arte thereof:

Also the Causes and Occasions of the Pra-
ctise of the same; and that in writing of the
most usuall formes of Characters
in the Worlde.

DEFINITIONS.

 ALLIGRAPHIA, Is
the ARTE of
Fayre and Perfect
VVriting.

THE ELEMENTS.

VV RITING, Is a Literall
Suppliment of the Voyce,
in exponing of the Minde.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

I Make choyse of this Title, both for the ratiōne thereof, because (so farre as I perceiue) none other Booke of this Subject hath it; and for the proprietie, since it is most proper thereto, for it is framed of the Etymologie of the worde, signifying as much as, Scribendi pingendive elegantia; derived both from the Greeke worde καλλιγραφία, id est, qui eleganter scribit aut pingit: and, καλλιγράφω, καλλιγράφω, i. eleganter scribo aut pingo: and composed of καλλά, ε, i. pulchritudo vel elegantia, & γράφω, i. scribo.

I thought the Definition of Writing, may agree also unto Printing, yet it doeth holde well enough, since the superior worde VVritting is generall to both: alwayes Writing may haue a more particular Definition than the former, and bee so proper unto it selfe, that it may exclude Printing, and this is it: VVritting may not onelie bee called a present framing and expressing of one Letter after another, to signifie the articulate voyce of the Tongue

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Tongue, whereby the thoughtes of the minde are expressed to these who bee present, and to interprete the minde, (without use of the tongue) unto those who bee absent: but likewise a speciall meane, whereby the memorie of thinges by passed is preserved, and the fore-knowledge of thinges to come revealed.

Now although Printing may say, Framing and Expressing, yet it may not say, Pretent framing, and expressing: that is, both to frame and set downe Letters, and therewith to expresse wordes and sentences at everie instant, without the ayde of other Artificers: for the worde present is proper onelie to Writing, because the action thereof is readie and easie, to bee prosecuted at everie occasion, without the helpe of such secundarie meanes.

Againe, Printing may well say, Framing and Expressing of Leeters in the plurall number, but it may not say, of one Letter after another advisedlie in the singular: because it consisteth in stamping, or imprinting, of manie Letters, (right or wrong) with one impression: for they may well bee set in order severallie, but the Impression must bee together. But indeede, when they are rightlie set, Printing in that point, is (as it were) the verie perfection of Writing, yea, and is so much more easie and commendable than Writing, by how much more it aboundeth in multiplying of Extractes, all alike cleanlie and right: for thereby the Worde of G O D is much more manifested, Bibles at a farre lower rate, and the Errors of Papistrie farre better discovered, than of before. For the which newe Benefits

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beside also, wee are bound to give the LOR^D m
thankes, Who stirreth up woorthie Instrumentes in
Ages, for the weale of Mankinde.

As for the woorde articulate, I thereby distinguis
Mens speaches, from other Voyces: because Voyces con
fused, and inarticulate, such as the voyces of Beastes,
Fowles, Fishes, and others, can no more bee understande
in the verie utterance, (except (as some alleadge) a
mongst themselues) than expiessed by letters: for letters
are the articles or joyntes of syllables, syllables of words,
and wordes of sentences.

Though all manner of Subjectes whereon, Instru
mentes wherewith, and Meanes whereby wee write,
bee included within the reaches of the former Defini
tions, yet mine intention is to informe, and instruct the
carefull Scholler how to write on Paper and Parchment,
with Penne and Inke, in the most constant and ordina
rie manner: and not to meddle with the rest, whether
they be ordinarie, or extraordinarie; or whether proce
ding of necessarie, or curiositie, farther than mine infor
mation and instruction heere auent, may agree unto them
all, or anie of them, eyther in whole, or in part.

PROBATIONS.

I Call the right use or performance, of Faire
and perfect Writing an Arte, because the
Definition of an Arte, given by cunning
Authors, doeth agree thereunto: for whe
ther

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ther we define an Arte with Aristotle, the Prince of Philosophers, to bee an habite of doing, or working, according to the Rule of right Reason: or with others, such as Lucian and Ramus, to bee a collection of good Preceptes, tending to some profitable use of the life: who can lawfullie denie, but both these Definitions may in competent measure bee attributed unto it? And seeing fewe doe performe, and practise the action of Writing alike, but some one way, some another; and farre more rashlie the wrong way, than advisedlie the right way; certaine it is, there must bee some secret causes wherefore one sorte doe write ignorantlie, and another Skilfullie: for which contrarieties bee more opposite, than Ignorance and Skill? And an Arte could not justlie bee called an Arte, at the least were not woorthie of the name, if each one could attaine thereunto without information and instruction, eyther vocall or literall.

It is true, sundrie oftentimes haue taken up some pretended manuell practise of Writing, at their owne hand, and haue knowne little or nothing of the Arte: yet because they could not bee able to defende their doinges, by anie other Rule of right Reason, than the bare worde *Custome*, they might well serue their owne use therewith, but they could not bee meete to instruct others, for lacke of sufficient qualificacion: as for exemple, Though a young Philosoph,

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soph, readie to bee laureated, were never so perfect, if hee cannot in some measure defende and warrand his owne Theses, by Metaphysicall, Logicall, or Philosophicall Argumentes and Syllogismes, hee is thought the more unfit to receiue the Laurell; even so though anie Master of the Arte of Writing could doe never so well with his Hand, if hee cannot defende the same with his Tongue also by Rules of Arte, he may well bee meete to write concerning common esfaires, but to instruct others hee cannot; because the most parte of all instructions doe consist both as well and as much in Information as Demonstration, that is, in speaking as in doing: and it may be seene afterwardes in this Booke, that there requireth manie other wordes to bee spoken, than the former word *Custome*; and though it shoulde bee repeated a thousande times, it still remaineth but one and the same; who then can learne or profite thereby? Indeede some other Customes availe much, but this nothing.

Wherefore, such instructors are not unlike unto those whō speake Latine, or sing **Musickē** onlie by the Eare, (that is, by oft hearing) and cannot defende either of them to bee right, though so they be; whereas the other, may bee compared to such as both doe these things, and can defende them indeede, by indoubted knowledge, proven by relevant reasons.

Likewise

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Likewise, they may bee compared unto a sort of Friendes (if anywayes so I may tearme them) which we call faire fashioned friendes, who in their complementes will promise to doe all thinges which in them lie, that may eyther profite or pleasure those unto whom they professe friendeship; but when they are prooved or charged with some one thing, they flatlie refuse, and to transforme an affirmatiue into a negative, a generall faire something, into a particuler faire nothing: even so if thou wilt nowe (I meane, at the first publication of this Booke) enter in conference with some who professe themselues to be the most expert and faire Writers in the Kingdome, (yea, in the World, they will readilie alledge, if they bee not contradicted) they will discourse so eloquentlie and Rhetorician-like, that thou wouldest belieue at the first, they could doe wonders, let bee to knowe or doe anie thing whatsoeuer belonging to the Arte which they professe, and take vp on them to teach: but if thou wilt take any Line of their owne writ, and aske wherefore such a Letter is fashioned, measured, conjoyned, &c, that way rather as another way (which if thou canst, thou may prooue to be better) they will not only cease from their discourse, but become so stupefact and dumme, that they cannot render one Rule of right reason, nor answere a word to that Question; and if anie dumme tea-

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ther can bee profitable in a Common Wealth,
it is some good Booke rather than a man.

Moreover, such who haue onlie a common
jade-trot of practise with the hand, and know
no Theoricke in the minde, to utter with the
tongue, may bee likened unto such servantes as
stand uncovered, holding or bearing a Pennar,
Inkehorne, and Candle, while their Masters in-
dyte and write concerning anie needfull pur-
pose; and that because there is no good stiffe
nor giftes in them for that or the like use, (but
sufficiencie for slavish service) in comparison
of the other sort, but as it were so manie dried
Bladders, having a fayre shewe without, and full
of nothing within but winde; which, when
they doe cracke, burst foorth all at once, and
leaue nothing till afterwardes: indeede I ac-
knowledge mine errour heere, for this compa-
rison will not alwayes holde, because it is more
pertinent sometimes to compare them unto Fi-
shers Bottels, which are so filled with strong
Drinke, that they froathe over, and cannot con-
taine that fuming rage which is within them.

Well then, it is harde to knowe, whether
such Artistes, (if so they may bee called) who
can scarcelie define, let bee to defende, the Arte
whereby they liue; bee more ignorant, and in-
temperate, or they more blinde, and negligent,
(in that point) who employ them, in trayning
up of their Youth: for how can anie Instructor

or

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or Pedagogue, leade Childe rightly in the way to Perfection, eyther of Learning or Manners, who never walked thorowe the boundes of right Direction and Discipline himselfe? But as for the other sorte, who are endued with these Gifte, which they want, and yet deride, can cast up infallible Rules, gaurded with forcible Reasons, both of their Practises, and Instructions, even as soone as a fine Grammarien can defende anie Latine phrase, by declaring and demonstrating the right Grammar Rule or authoritie of anie thing, which shall happen to bee impugned therein, and will likewise haue some regarde of Modestie, Temperancie, and good behaviour. And howsoever Writing may bee done, without Rules of right Reason, yet fayre and perfect Writing, must bee accom-
plished by these Rules: and since therefore, it hath all the properties due unto an Arte, who can denie it to bee justlie intituled by the name of an Arte? yea, of a Science, (if I had choosed) rather than Printing.

D I V I S I O N S. *Serving likewise as an Index, by declaring on what Page every Division beginneth.*

THIS Arte divideth it selfe in two parts, one Generall, and another Speciall: the one comprehēdeth all necessarie Rules of

THE ELEMENTS,
of Preparation whereby, beginning on the 1. pag:
and diverse Rules of Information how to write
the moste usuall formes of Characters in the
Worlde, pag: 31. And the other containeth
the remnant Rules of Information, 45. And all
the Rules of Perfection, howe to attaine to one
of the moste frequent sortes in EUROPE, cal-
led the SECRETARIE, 144.

. S V B - D I V I S I O N S.

THe Generall parte is sub-divided into
two Sections, the first treating of the
meanes whereby to write, pag. 1. And
the second, of the manner how, 31.

The first Section, is severed also into two
partes, the first concerning the using of the dis-
junct meanes, or instrumentes from the Writer,
such as the Penne, Inke, Paper, and Penne-
Knife, 1. And the other, concerning the using
of the conjunct meanes, or instrumentes to the
Writer, as his Hand, Thombe, and Fingers, 28.
Also it treateth both of the gesture of his Head
and Eyes, and of the position of his Bodie,
while as hee writeth. *ibidem.*

And the speciall parte, is sub-divided into
four Sections, each one whereof containeth
one of the four Symboles, or Signes; signifying
the articulate voyce of the Tongue, and cogi-
tations

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lations of the Minde: and these bee Letters, 57. Syllables, 161. Wordes, 167. and Sentences, or Lines, 170.

The first Section is distributed into eight members: first is set downe the Preambles, and Introduction to Letters, 57.

Secondlie, the Letters themselues, with their number, in forme, and by order of Alphabet: together, with the Variations, or Degressions, of all the variable, or degredible sortes thereof, from their originall proportion, 66.

Thirdlie, the Divisions, or Denominations of Letters, declaring their severall sortes by their names, 79.

Fourthlie, the Comparations, or Descriptions, of Single and Double Letters coniunctlie, demonstrating and making each one equall with another of its owne kinde; and that by describing so manie as haue bodies, heads, and tayles, and howe manie want them, 83. And then, the double Letters severallie, shewing their combination; that is, howe they are made double, and united, 91.

Fifthlie, thou wilt not onelie finde the Entrie which leadeth unto Perfection in the Arte of Fayre Writing, made open, and the Keyes thereof delivered, 93. But likewise the Transition, or through-going, which leadeth unto Perfection it selfe, made patent: which declarereth the gradation howe, meanes whereby, and space

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space howe soone it maye bee arrayned unto, 96.

Sixthlie, an Abridgement of the Arte, containing tenne compendious Preceptes, each one whereof having its owne proper name, (for memories cause:) and thet bee, Limitation of Capitals, Dimission of Square, Expedition, Proportion, Quantitie, Situation, Conjunction, Distance, Difference, and Comprehension, 109. Together with a briefe Alphabet conforme to the same precepts; after the which doeth followe the Conjugations and Formations of all the Letters of that Alphabet, both for themselues, and in place of all other Letters of this kinde, whether in the great Alphabet, or else where; shewing so manie as bee both conjoyned and framed together of one fashion, though of diverse Names, and beginne proceede and conclude nearest after one manner: first ranked conjunctlie or together, and then severallie, that is, each one with the owne Rule by it selfe, declaring the true progresse and course of the Pen therein. 121. Likewise two Verses or Lines of Writ conforme to the saide briefe Alphabet; 113, with a Prologue, 109, & Epilogue, 116. All of them for the use of all Learners, but chiefelie of such as would fayne learne the common forme of Writ suddenly; leaving all others unto those who may spare longer tyme, and take greater paynes.

Sea-

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Seaventhlie, an Narration, demonstrating
howe manie strikes may suffice, to cast each
Single and Double Letter, before the Penne be
taken off the paper, 136.

And eightly, many of the Rules of perfection
in Fayre Writing; (each one wherof proved by
an Exemple) which treate of the right proportion-
ing, measuring, and situating, of Sing'le,
and inseparable Double Letters, and conjoy-
ning thereof within wordes, 144.

As for the three other Sections, they are
indivisible, and doe containe the remnant
Rules of perfection, which againe doe compre-
hende the Constructions of Fayre Writing, or
the right contriving, setting, and ordering, of
Letters within Syllables, 161. Wordes, 167.
and Sentences, or Lines, of Fayre Writ, 170.
and that even to the ende.

Further, the Speciall part of this Booke con-
tayneth a Generall preface unto all the foure Se-
ctions thereof, and the fore-named Contentes
of the same, 45.

And last, the Conclusion; treating some-
what of punctes, and accentes: as also Abrevia-
tions; and of the Effayres and Writs, wherein
they bee most used; and that in the ende, 176.

C A V S E S .

THe causes of Writing (as of other things) be foure, the Efficient, Materiall, Formall, and Finall ; but more Metaphorick than proper.

The Efficient causes are two-folde , Principall and instrumentall, or Immediate and Mediate; the Principall Efficient is the Writer, because he (under G O D) is the speciall agent or user of the meanes, as well in applying each one to its owne use, as by concurring and co-operating with them in doing of the action.

The Instrumentall Efficients are likewise two fold, living and deade , the living Instrumentes, bee Members of the Writer his Bodie, as the Hand , Thombe , and Fingers; and the dead, (or rather; not living, because it may be alleadged, that anie thing which never lived can be said to be dead) is the pen onlie. And whereas I omit and exeeeme the Arme , which hath the Hand and Fingers depending thereon

&c

OF FAIRE WRITING.

xc, and Pen-Knife, which is the Instrumentall Efficient of the Pen &c; I doe neither of them wrong: seeing it is but the nearest causes which pertaine most unto this purpose; for it were both needlesse and impertinent to extende the causes of Writing farther than neede requireth. And while as the Hand, Thombe, and Fingers, are not alwayes the Instrumentall Efficients, seeing some will Write with their Feete and Toes, yea with their Teeth also; It is not anie such accidentall and extraordinarie practises that I promised to speake of, because they are both tedious and needlesse, for if those persons were not maimed, or else too curious, they would not exerce them: and whatsoever other Members they employ thereanent, doe but supplie the place of the former, which bee the proper Instrumentall Efficients of the action.

The Materiall cause of Writing, or of Letters written materiallic, (that is, without signification) is the Inke, for as the paper is the subject whereon, so the Inke is the matter whereof: and so whether it bee a common and cheape Liquor (of whatsoever colour) demonstrating the true lineaments and pathes of the pen, as it proceedeth foorth thereof in framing of Letters; or a rare and sumptuous Liquor, as liquid Golde or Silver, all doe consist

¶¶¶¶

alike

THE ELEMENTS,
alike of matter or substance, though otherwayes
they bee not equivalent, but discrepant in va-
lour; for all become drie alike soone, and none
of them remaineth liquid more than another:
but indeede if thou wilt looke to the inhesion
or penetration of Letters in the subject, the
same is rather accidentall than substanciall.

The formall cause of Writing, is the exte-
nall shape of the Letter, whether it be perfectly
or imperfectly proportioned; for albeit by the
decent proportion of everie Letter appeareth
the beautie of all the wryt, yet sometimes by the
custome of right reading, the Sense of Words
may be understood, though the Letters be im-
perfectlie written: but wee should no more pre-
sume heereby to doe anie thing in a wrong
manner that it may be right, than to doe evill
that good may proceede thereof.

And the finall cause of Writing, is the for-
mer signifying of articulate voyce, whereby the
thoughts of the minde are interpreted, and the
demonstrating of the minde without the voyce;
for as Aristotle teacheth, Writs or Letters are
the Symboles of Voyces or Wordes, (howso-
ever it may bee thought that the Voyce beeing
invisible cannot bee represented by anie exte-
nall Signe) the Voyces Symboles of the Con-
cep-

OF FAIRE WRITING.

ception of the Minde, and the Conceptions of the Minde, Images of thinges which bee outwith the Minde: and that both of Divine Writs and Humane.

Of Divine VVrits, it pleased the *A L MIGHTIE*, by the meane and ambassage of VVriting, to manifest His blessed VVill to the VVorlde in all Ages, (but chiefelie, and in greatest measure, nowe in these last Ages) concerning His owne Glorie, and Mans Saluation: which if thou wouldeit knowe, (as thou oughtest indeede, because they are the two chiefe endes, wherefore it pleased Him to giue thee breath, and bring thee unto this VVorlde: for all other thine Errandes, are but as so manie parentizes, which will bee verie soone closed, after thou thy selfe art closed in the Graue, whereas these will accompanie, thee, and goe with thee to the Heavens,) thou must, with assistance of his Holie Spirite, search the Holie Scriptures, and there the VVrits, or Letters, will bee as Signes, leading thee to the gracious VVordes which did proceede foorth of His Sacred Mouth there anent, (to speake so) and the wordes will leade thee to the conceptions, and notions, which were in His Blessed Minde, and the conceptions, as Symboles, will viuelie represent unto thy minde, those

THE ELEMENTS,
thinges which thou knewest not of before.

And of Humane VVrits , that is, betwixt man and man , when one is astricte to per-forme anie point of duetie unto another , by VVrit, (because wordes are no sooner uttered, but they evanish in the Aire, except eyther VVitnesSES bee present , or the partie all the more trustie) the VVrits will signifie the words which hee spake , the wordes will interprete the conceptions of his minde, (except dissimu-lation, which nowe aboundeth, hath made dis-crepance) and the conceptions of his minde, wordes of his mouth, and subscription of his hand, will tie, and obliue him to per-forme those thinges which hee promised, and under-tooke to accomplish ; and that eyther in whole or in parte, according to his power : otherwise , if there were no Writing nowe, I suspect there woulde bee little good order in anie common wealth , or credite kepted , eyther amongst strangers, or neighbours, yea, scarcelie amongst friendes; in respect of the infidelitie, and incre-dulitie , which daylie increaseth so much the greater, by howe much the consummation of this great and universall Fabricke approacheth nearer.

O C C A-

OCCASIONS.

LAst, the OCCASIONS of Writing are two-folde, The particular Effayres of the Writer, and employments of others; The motiues which mooue the Writer, bee likewise two-folde, Externall, and Internall: The one is, when hee writeth concerning his owne businelle immediatelic, for some publicke respectes, as when a Creditor persueth a Debter before an ordinary Judge; The other is, when hee is mooved by some motiue as yet privie unto himselfe, as when it pleaseth GOD to stirre up anie to bee Author of some needfull preceptes, woorthie to bee put in practise, and the same not as yet manifested: And the Employmentes of others, whether they bee the Writers Superiours, Inferiours, or equals, all of them, (as his Clientes in a manner) doe employ him to write concerning their negotiations, mediatelic, and conditionallie, eyther for favour, thankes, or recompence.

Thus much concerning the ELEMENTS
¶¶¶¶ 3 and

THE ELEMENTS,
and CONTEMPLATIONS of FAIRE WRITING; and although some of them may seeme
coincident, and ambiguous, yet (if so be) I may
bee the better excused, since a Sojournour hath
no great shame to goe a little astray in an un-
knowne and unpathed way, wherein fewe be-
fore him haue walked: alwayes, for methode
and orders cause, I could not well omit them;
notwithstanding mine intention bee rather to
insist in the externall forme, and beautie of
Letters for the eye, as moste pertinent to the
practise of the Arte, than to enter over deepleie
into anie accurate description of their internall
properties for the minde, because that is more
proper unto a Science.

Now for as much as I haue not onelie decla-
red what kinde of Worke this is, the use there-
of, the causes mooving mee to builde it, mesu-
red and layde the foundation thereof, and gi-
ven a name thereunto; but haue shewed like-
wise the causes whereof it proceedeth, the oc-
casions of the proceeding, considered of the
height, deepnesse, length, and bredth of the
same before it was founded; and not onelie pre-
pared all necessarie materials for uppe-going
thereof, but provided all necessarie Furniture

OF FAIRE WRITING.

to be so affixed therein, as both building & ple-
nishing to remaine one, and the same, It follo-
weth then in the next rowme, that it bee com-
pleted: which (GOD bee praysed) doeth arise
to a great height, in the Generall parte of this
Booke, and (almoste in substance, though not
in stile) is covered with the Crowne of Per-
fection in the Speciall: & albeit some of
the Rules of eyther parte be affir-
matiue, some negatiue, & some
partlie both, (for explica-
tions cause) yet they
must not be rā-
ked ac-
cor-
ding
to the me-
thode of the
Rule it selfe, but ra-
ther keepe such place, and
comelie ordour, even
as is requisite for
the nature of
the Sub-
ject.

And so immediately they begin.



THE GENE- RALL PART OF THIS BOOKE.

Sect. I.

Comprehending all the Rules of
Preparation, concerning the meanes
whereby to write the most usuall
formes of Characters.

THE DISIVNCT MEANES FROM the Writer.

Concerning the Pen-knife.



ET the Pen-knife bee of a span in length; two partes thereof being Haft, and the third part Blade: the haft either square or round, and somewhat decreasing small unto the end, for the slitting up of the clift of the Pen. And let the Blade be made cleanlie sharpe, and so kept (by the meanes of whetting) alwayes for its owne use.

A

The

The qualities and tokens of the best Pennes.

CHoose Raven and Goose Pennes for anie
writ upon Paper, and small  upon
Parchment; and Swan or Briszell pennes
for great writ upon parchment. Take few of
either sort, but such as be somewhat straight of
staulke, long and great of pipe, round and hard
through out, but chiefelie at the highest part
therof next the staulke. And if the Goose pennes
haue whole feathers on them, the pen whereof
the feather hath a hollownesse on the right side
of the staulke, (and some time on the left) al-
most at the head or point of the feather, is on-
lie the best, whether it bee the second or third
of the wing: as for the first and fourth Quill,
they are seldome found to proue good. But if
thou findest none of the former two sorts when
thou wouldest, or finding anie Raven or Goose
pennes whatsoever, not having the foresaid to-
kens or markes, refuse then altogether, except
onlie in great necessitie. For what availeth it to
make evill pennes, though they may be made
never so well, if when they are made they write
not well? Alwayes, since pennes cannot bee aye
had alike good, I will not discourage anie, but
rather informe them in the sublequent Rule
how to use the nearest remedie: onlie heere, in
stead of thet evill second and third pennes, I
advise

advise thee to make choise of the best sort of first pennes, rather than the fourth: that is, such as haue maniest of the fore-named fve qualities: for albeit they haue all commonlie some that bee bad, as crookednesse, shortnesse, and oftentimes smalnesse, yet naturallie the most part of them haue as manie also that bee good, such as roundnesse, hardnesse, and sometimes greatnesse.

The manner how to forme the Penne.

After the Quill is made hote amongst the ashes of the fire, and well rubbed (being wet with thy mouth) first with the backe of a Knife, and then with a woollen cloath, let it be fashioned in this manner:

First, let the Knife slent downe the fore part or face of the Quill, (being holden upwardes) which if it bee straight, is knowne onlie by the hollownesse in the midst of that selfe same side of the stalk: or being crooked, is perceved as wel by the crookednes as hollownes. But beware ye cut any more than half thorow, that is, the piece not quite taken off. Thereafter, turne the Quill about, and cut the other halfe on the backe, just foreuent the other halfe cut on the fore side: to wit, a shorter slent, which commeth away (with the former) from the Quill, whereby remaineth two sharpe points at the ende.

The qualities and tokens of the best Pennes.

Choose Raven and Goose Pennes for anie writ upon Paper, and small writ upon Parchment; and Swan or Briszell pennes for great writ upon parchment. Take few of either sort, but such as be somewhat straight of staulke, long and great of pipe, round and hard through out, but chiefelie at the highest part therof next the staulke. And if the Goose pennes haue whole feathers on them, the pen whereof the feather hath a hollownesse on the right side of the staulke, (and some time on the left) almost at the head or point of the feather, is onlie the best, whether it bee the second or third of the wing: as for the first and fourth Quill, they are seldome found to proue good. But if thou findest none of the former two sorts when thou wouldest, or finding anie Raven or Goose pennes whatsoeuer, not having the foresaid tokens or markes, refuse them altogether, except onlie in great necessitie. For what availeth it to make evill pennes, though they may be made never so well, if when they are made they write not well? Alwayes, since pennes cannot bee ayed alike good, I will not discourage anie, but rather informe them in the subsequent Rule how to use the nearest remedie: onlie heere, instead of the evill second and third pennes, I advise

advise thee to make choise of the best sort of first pennes, rather than the fourth: that is, such as haue maniest of the fore-named fve qualities: for albeit they haue all commonlie some that bee bad, as crookednesse, shortnesse, and oftentimes smalnesse, yet naturallie the most part of them haue as manie also that bee good, such as roundnesse, hardnesse, and sometimes greatnesse.

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Secondlie, holding the quill so still, begin the clift rightlie in the midſt of the laſt halfe cut; and riue it quicklie up, but not farre; and that either with the ende of the pen-knife, or with that piece of the quill which yee cut off, (it being holden on the point of the knife) as ye ſhall finde moſt convenient.

Thirdlie, turne the quill juſtly about again, with the face upwards, as it was firſt, and begin forenent the higheſt part of the clift, and cut it downe cleanlie on either ſide, both either proceeding alike, or one after another, as thou pleaſest, till it decrease to ſuch a ſlenderneſſe, or ſmalneſſe; or continue in ſuch a fulnes, or greatneſſe, as thou woudest haue thy letters or writ to bee.

Fourthlie, cut downe the mouth evenly, the length whereof not to exceede twiſe the length of the clift; and let it descende by ſuch diminution or abatement, as it may deſiſt and leauē off with ſome height upwardes frō the clift, equallie on either ſide: the loweſt part whereof being aye right forenent the higheſt part of the clift; to the effect the point or neb of the penne may remaine ſtrong, and ſo both ſerue its owne uſe the better, and endure the longer. And if it be not cleanlie riven, then muſt thou either pare it lightlie on the backe, elſe to ſlit it ſomewhaſt farther up, or elſe loſe it.

And fifthlie, coll or cur the point cleanlie and

and evenlie at once, either on the naile of thy thombe, or on the staulke of another penne, and that after three manner of wayes, because all pennes may be considered in three sorts, good, ill, and indifferent.

N O T A. By the way remember, while as thou c-l-
lest the pen, to holde thine eyes so cloe, that althoug^b
the cutting spang upwardes, (as it us uallie doeth) it get
no entres into anie of them, to impede or hinder thy sight.

A L I A. As for that olde Rule, DEXTRA PARS
PENNÆ, LEVIOR BREVIOR. DFBET E-
SSE; I reverence the good intention of the Author
thereof, in that behalfe, but finde no necessarie in the ob-
servation: because naturallie while as the penne is holden
to write with, it lieth somewhat over to the right side:
by which meanes that side wear eth both thinne & short
enough of it selfe, though it bee not so made nor mended:
and therefore the foreaid precept can haue no force, be-
cause it hath no repugnance.

A good Pen, I say, is hard or strong, which
if thou wouldest either make or mende, let it aye
haue so long a clift or passage thorow the same
as may easilie vent or deliver the Inke, and be
made small on either side, to the intent it may
both write cleanly, and mend often, without
further ryuing up, because it is strong of it selfe;
And, notwithstanding of the smalnesse thereof,
it will not only write great in respect of the
long reache of the clift (and so going further
in bredth) by sadde thrusting or laying to, but
likewise

likewise small thorow light thrusting or laying to: & therefore, & because of the readie passage of Inke thorow a long clift, and so the pen induring to write the more cleanly, as likewise scrving and suffering to bee oft mended with little travell, and without further riving up, and consequentlie so much the longer unspent, it is a good sort of Pen.

An evill pen, is that which is souple or weake, which when thou makest, or mendest, must haue a short slit, and bee suffred to remaine great on both sides, because it is weake; and in regarde thereof hath neither strength to reach farre in breadth, nor suffer to bee fadde laide to the paper: and therefore, and because of the evil deliverie of the Inke from a short clift, which can neither bee mended, unlesse it bee riven farther up, and by meanes thereof so much the more of the pen wasted, nor yet endure to write cleanlie, it is an naughtie sort of pen.

And as for the indifferent sort of pennes, which are neither too hard, nor too soft, but equall, let an indifferent mediocritie be kept betwixt the length and shortnesse of their cliftes, as also betwixt the greatnesse and finalnesse of either side thereof, and that both when thou makest and mendest them.

Or, in few wordes, leaue and obserue this one lesson for all the three sortes of pennes: Trie whether the pipe of whatsoeuer penne bee hard, soft, or indifferent;

and then the neb thereof upon the nayle of thy thombe, b e sparinglie: if it bee hard, and the slit not yeelding so farre as it ought, then riue the same a little farther up, and make it somewhat longer, unlesse it clieue foyle: if it bee soft, and haue too long a clift, that is, not correspondent to the strength thereof, but aboue the same, it requireth to bee corrected, and made somewhat shorter: and if it bee indifferent, let either the clift thereof bee kept, or made so equall, and with such discretion as thos (by the exercise of thine hand) shalt finde most req i-site.

The manner how to bolde the penne.

HOlde the mouth of the penne inwardlie, just foreuent the palme of thine hand; to the effect the broad side may come down in casting of all letters, and the narrow side stelt up, lest they bee small where they should bee great, and great where they should be small. But if thou bee inclined to suffer the penne somewhat to decline, or lie aside, let the mouth thereof touch that joint of the middle finger, wherewith it is holden, that the declination thereof may bee towardes the left hand. As also, for the more comlinesse of small and compassed partes of letters, it is requisite oftentimes even to turne the left side, or edge of the penne directlie about, where the mouth was of before; but not to turn the right side of the pen contr-

rywise about; that is, to hold the mouth therof directlie forenent the left hand, and the backe thereof to touch the middle finger of the right hand, but remaine alwayes in its owne station, except in so farre as it will turne it selfe by occasion and course of the former turninges.

Let the penne bee holden betwixt the utter point of thy thombe, high, and the inner side of thy middle finger, (not aboue, nor yet touching the naile thereof, but a little before the same) low, and bee bound or holden close to both, with the inner part of thy formost finger in the midst: but let it not bee so short holden that either the naile of thy middle finger cover the mouth thereof, or yet touch the paper.

Let the penne neither bee over softlie holden, nor too faste griped, but in a reasonable measure betwixt both; because in so doing thine hand will be able both to write best & most, or endure longest to write wel without wearying.

How to governe or leade the penne.

SInce all letters, for the most part, ought to haue a greatnesse, a smalnesse, and a mixture; that is, partlie great, and partlie small; let the penne be sadlie laid to the paper as it commeth downe in all letters, that the stroake which it maketh may bee great; and let it goe lightlie, or touch the paper fayourable, as it sleneth up in all

all letters, that the stroake which it maketh may bee small; (yet it may bee tollerated when the descending part of anie letter slenteth to the left hand, not onelie to suffer the penne to goe lightlie, that the stroake may bee small, but likewise to make the neather point of straight tailed letters small; both because they are most seemelie so to bee, and naturallie while as the penne is alifting, or in taking up, at the finishing of that part of such letters, it arrogateth some libertie so to doe) and keepe such an indifferent middes, either of increasing, great, or decreasing, small, as is requisite in the mixed part, which occurreth most often in the compassing or turning partes of letters.

And howbeit neither all the downe-comminges of the penne can bee altogether great, all the up-goinges altogether small, (even besides these two sortes excepted) nor all turninges altogether mixed, yet heerein as thou strivest to obserue, thy writ will bee so much the more comelie, and legeable. But there bee some who delight to shew their skill in the exquisite smalnesse of downe-comming, and compassed partes of letters; which I thinke is neither naturall to doe, nor yet pertinent to bee done; because each one of these three letters, (and) so casten, is not onelie uneasier to write than if it were all great where it should bee; but appeareth (a little distant from

the eye) like this consonant () in respect of the utter simalnesse thereof, where it ought not to bee. Indeede in beautifying, garnishing, or decoring of letters (besides up-goinges and slet downe-comminges to the left hand) conditionallie that the proportion thereof bee not the worse, but the better, I commende there that which I discommend heere, as there be right reasons, times, and places of all things.

What losse hapneth through want of Pennes.

Albeit a Penne bee a small thing of it selfe, yet what thing is employed in greater Eſtaffaires? and oftentimes the want thereof in needfull times, either of matters penning, or ſubſcribing of matters penned, hath cauſed maie ſo to regrate, that they would afterwards gladlie haue given the price of a thouſand for the like precious time, but haue beeene refuſed. Therefore ſince time by-paſt no wayes can bee recalled, yea, verie hardlie redemeed, bee carefull to uſe rightlie the time preſent, by learning with thy writing to make, and to prevent the time to come by fore-light, in uſing alwayes to keepe: because both the moſt part which can make, write aye beſt with their owne forme of pennes; and thoſe who keepe them, haue them readieſt. Otherwife, iſ thou wilt not thus ſtudy to ſerue thine owne uſe, thou wilt bee forced to borrow

borrow, and oft times bee disappointed, either altogether, at least of pennes meete for thee, and so then be constrained to write with anie penne howsoever made or mended to thee by another, or else, will thou, nill thou, to want often times, and that perchance when thou hast most adoe.

Admonitions concerning the Penne.

AS often as thou art to write either with a new or olde made penne which is become dry, forget not to wette the point, and the most part of the mouth thereof well within, before thou dippe it in the Inke, lest it hardlie receiue the same: or if it receive, it vent not cleanlie thorow, but fall out so in blobbes at the point that it blotte thy writ. And as often as thou takest Inke, let the penne bee dipped aye at the farthest side of the Inke-horne, to the effect the Linnē or Cotton within the same may come in, or bee betwixt it and the Horne, that the point thereof incurre no danger. And immediateli thereafter not onelic shake the superplus of the Inke out of the penne, into the Inke-horne againe, rather than else where: but dight away the Haires, & thicke Inke from the point thereof, (if anie bee) before thou write.

Againe, when it shall happen thee to irke, rest, or doe ought els which hindereth thee anie wayes

wayes in performance of the action, and as yet not minded to desist, it is more seemelie (for that short time) to place the penne on thy right eare, than either to put it in thy mouth, or yet to suffer it to remaine in the Inke-horne, & that for preventing & intercepting of the occasions following on these childish enormities: Because many childrē making their countenance by the first thereof, take occasion with their teeth both to enfeeble and shorten the staulke of the pen, without the which the pipe becometh unable to doe its owne part, since it can bee no better holden anie way than with its owne staulke. And by occasion of the second absurdtie, the penne becommeth so weake & feeble, through long standing amongt the Inke, that it will write no more good writ, till it dry againe at length, and bee mended of new.

And last, when the action is concluded, remember to clean e the Inke foorth of the pen, that it may write the more cleanlie at the next occasion. (I adde heere the word [remember] because commonlie all meanes are more regarded in the beginning of anie action, than in the ende, when the use of them is expired.) Indeed after the penne is wel dried, if thou use to mend it aye before thou begin, it will be both harder, and rime so much the more cleanlie, by how little it hath beeene dight.

The use of a Tenne without Inke.

IF thou canst not follow curious letters abruptlie by rule of eye, or hast not a perfect hand draught, eilley first with a dry penne, made without a clift, for that effect, in stead (or for lacke) of Char-coale, Blacke-lead, &c. and thereafter goe over the same againe with a writing penne, hauing Inke therein: and what errors of the first drawing thou leavest uncovred in the second, fayle not to deleate and rubbe away on both the sides of the paper, when as the letters are dry, and that with a cleane tooth, or piece of other bone, made smooth for that or the like use.

How to make common blacke Inke.

TAKE, of Scottish measure, a choppin of Ale woort, being colde and well setled, and a pynt of raine or standing water, and put in a leaden or earthen vessell of correspondent quantitie alike wide up and downe, with halfe a pounde of fresh galles grosly brayed, and stirre them about amongst the liquor, the space of two dayes thrise each day, & one quarter houre each time; and that with a small or thin peice tynber, made broad at the neather ende for that use. Then straine the

the gall water throgh a draught cloath into such another vessell covered aboue, together with 5. ounces of Coppresse or Romane Vitriole, one ounce of cleare Gumme Arabicke, and halfe an ounce of Alme, if it shall happen to sinke: thereafter stirre all about, the space of a quarter of an hour, and then it will bee sufficient.

Moreover, remember to fill up the first vessell againe with halfe of the former quantitie or measures of galles, woort, and raine water; and stirre the same about thrise each weeke till the foresaid Inke bee spent: like as thou mayst supplie aye the same with some augmentation so long as the colour of the gall water remaineth Browne. Whatsoever thing is written herewith, may bee dried with sand or gray paper, if the haste of thine affaires may not suffer it to dry of the owne accord.

How to make fine blacke Inke.

FOr writing any heretale right, or whatsoever thing either of great importance, long endurance, or to men of great account, the most perfect blacke, and lustring Inke, is most excellent and requisite; which if thou wouldest learne to make, either for thine owne use, or to pleasure thy friend, use & employ these meanes following:

Take Vessells of the former quantitie and sub-

substance, and put the preceeding measures of materials and liquor therein; but either white wine or May dew in stead of the raine water, & the gall water to stande the space of 20. dayes: at the expiring whereof, thou must adde to this composition these ingredients; to wit, an ounce weight (at the least) of the fume of Rozet, otherwile called Lampe blacke, halfe an ounce of the Pulver of an Hartes horne, being burnt and beaten, or the like measure of the rootes of white Lillies dried and in like manner made in Pulver: all these requiring to bee mixed with Gummie Arabicke water, before they bee put amongst the rest. Likewise (if thou please) thou mayest ad thus much further, an ounce of white Sugar candie, or common Sugar, the white of two Egges casten, & a Pomegranate or Sithron skinne being dried and beaten; and then let all stand the space of ten dayes before thou write therewith, either in a shaddowie and colde place, or against the Sunne as thou thinkest best: if thou make choyse of the first, anie of the former sort of vessels will bee sufficient, but if of the next, a Glasse is most meete.

Remember to stirre about this Inke, the saide 10. daves space, as oft dayly as of before; and so oft thereafter as thou takest thereof: but before thou write with the same, straine it thorow a linnen cloath, being either knit about the

the mouth of the vessell, or spredde aboue the mouth of the Inke-horne; and that for retaining and holding backe the groundes or thicke Inke, because it is profitable in the vessell amongst the rest, but both unprofitable and noysome in the Inke-horne: in the one, because most substance remaineth in thicke Inke, and therefore it is the best mixture for thin Inke: and in the other, since it is thicke, it will not passe cleanly thorow the Pen; but both readily blot whatsoeuer thing is written therewith, & hinder thee in finishing of the action.

And if the same either grow whoare, or exhaust so through long standing, and seldom troubling, that it cannot serue thy use; or yet when the thin Inke is altogether spent, supplie the remnant with a mutchken of vineger, and raine water, by equall proportions; halfe an ounce of bay salt, or either more or lesse of these, as the quantitie of thy composition requireth: stirring all about once each weeke at the least.

Finallie, whatsoeuer thing is written herewith, may be dried either at the fire a farre off, with tighers of Brasse, Copper, Tinne, or white Yron, being shorne very small, kept cleanly, and casten thereon; or else of the owne accord: (as thou pleaseit, or as time straiteth thee) for it being thus composed, will be so clamme, that whatsoeuer thing cleaveth therunto when it is

it is wet, hardlie ever severeth therefrom when it is dry.

And last, if thou wouldest haue any great letters or small writ written heerewith to luster, or glister, in greater measure than the substance of the Inke it selfe doeth afforde, then take a pin-cell made of a Cons taile, and dippe amongst gum Arabicke water, being dissolved thick, and lay over the same therewith, after they are well dried of themselues.

The hinderance that proceedeth of the want and scantnesse of Inke.

VV Hether thou bee an ordinarie writer that livest thereby, or one that usest it as a speciall helpe in thine effaires, haue such plentie of Inke alwayes with thee as thine Inke-horne may easily containe:lest either when it is scarce, thou ding backe the point of the Pen, by thrusting it to the Horne, Linnen, or Cotton within the same; or else when it is deficient, thou ryue the clift thereot farder up, by preassing to seek it where it is not to be had: and so thou wilt be both hindered and angred when thou hast most adoe, as also ashamed before whom thou so doest; and that not onlie for lacke of Inke, but in like manner thorow often mending and changing of the pen in the middest of thy writ.

Further, if thou neither be in haste, nor can haue plentie of Inke at that instant; take foorth that which thou hast rather with a worne pen, & lay upon the side of the Inke-hornes mouth, that thou mayest take thereof as neede requireth; than to spill or spoyle the pen wherewith thou writeit, through default afore said.

Concerning the Pennar and Inke-horne.

WHosoever thou be that art subject to write much and often, choose thy Pennar and Ink-herne of such quantitie, as that the one may containe plentie of pennes, and the other store of Inke: neither yet be ashamed to haue them of such a common and easie forme, as they may be alwayes separated, and yet kept together with a durable string, wherewith they must bee hung alwayes at thy Girdle (either before or behind as thou pleasest) wheresoever thou resortest, and not hid in thy Pocket. But there be some so inclined to civilitie, (or rather to the loue of their own reputation) that although they haue purchased large meanes by the meane of writing, and daylie addeth there unto, beside the defraying of all charges otherwise; yet are ashamed in the verie middest of their profession to honour the Calling that farre, (which hath both honoured and preferred them so much) as to carrie those necess-

necessaries in the most frequent manner, without the which, or the like, they could not put it in practise, and so want all which thereby they obtaine: whereas manie others which perhaps deserue more, and receive lesse, may bee easilie knowne by these tokens of what profession they be; which is a thing verie seemly, yea, and agreeable to the custome observed as well by sundrie Artists, as Artificers of other Artes and vocations, who think it no disparagement. Againe, not onelie the Pennars, or Penne-cases of the sortes that bee carried in private manner, doe holde few pennes, and those verie short; but both the naturall heate of the body maketh the colour of the Inke, kept in these Ink-horns, soone to fade, after it is dispersed in writ; and suddenlie to exhaust, and bee dried up in the Inke-horne; or at least become so thicke, that it will stoppe its owne passage through the clift of the Penne. As also aye before thou begin to write, they require to bee taken sundrie, in so manie pieces, that it is harde either to keepe them so long as thou writest; or after thou hast written, to get them conveaned, and set together againe.

Haue no Inke-horne, but that which may bee closelie stopped as thou carriest it; lest the Inke over-flow, and pollute thine Apparell, whereof if the colour differ from the colour of the Inke, it will bee harde to finde remedie for

reparing of the fault, except the more timelic regard bee had thereunto, before the penetration and drinking in thereof in that wrong subiect. That sort of Inke-horne, which (besides the stopper) is all of one piece, alike abroade, both aboue, to receiue the penne easilie, without doing harme thereunto; and under to stand on, is the best to bee chosen: but none of those which are high or long, whether consisting of one piece or moe, because in taking Inke foorth thereof, the penne not onelie spilleth often times on their bottome, because the deepenesse thereof is uncertaine: but also even in the entrie, since it is too narrow. And that which is yet worse, a great part of the pipe thereof will bee so defiled with Inke, (by reason of the said deepenesse) that it will reedilie blotte thy fingers, and so cause thy fingers to blotte the paper. Last, while as thou perusest these necessaries, let them either hing still on thy Belt, if then thou hast not much to write, and that the Inke abound not: or else stand on the writing table, beside thine hand which writeth, because it is nearest and readiest there: lest otherwise, if either at the left hand, or yet directlie before thee, some of the Inke fall out of the penne by the way, in transporting thereof over thy writ, and so likewile disgrace it.

Con-

Concerning the Paper.

Have ever a sheete of cleane Paper rightlie folded in thy little Booke, called VADE MECVM, or more, as need requireth, kept in better maner, that is, either unfolded, or in fewer foldings: lest otherwayes no lesse skaith happen vnto thee, than by the want of pennes in thine urgent businesse: (as is forewarned in the owne place) for although Inke may bee hastilie made, and after diverse wayes in time of neede, yet pennes are not alwayes so to bee had, (even where they use sometime to bee in greatest plentie) nor everie where to make, though thou couldest never so well: and paper farre lesse, which is not onlie more rare to be had, but more difficult to make, albeit thou haue abundance of the matter whereof it is made.

When thou art to write on the paper which thou shalt happen to haue, let it lie square on that part of the Table before thee, where thou sittest or standest, and bee remooved at so manie times, or by so manie degrees, foorthwith from thee, as lines doe increase in number in with to thee.

Let both those who haue made little progresse in learning to write, and those who haue little leasure to learne, or both as one, make

choyse of the Page, or Leafe, (of ordinarie paper) in quarto, made in the long line volume: because the one sort (if they would profit) must needs write slowlie, till they amend sufficiently: and so great Pages would both fuddle in time of the writing, and bee tedious (for them) to write: and the other, may not write much at ones, for lacke of time, as fayde is. But accordinglie as skill groweth with the first, opportunitie with the last, and dexteritie with both, it will bee more fitte time to choose greater volumes.

And if thou wouldest know particularlie how to make that forme of booke, take a Paste-boord equall in quantitie with one of the sheets of Paper whereon thou art to write, and folde it together justlie in the middest four-fold, pressing downe all upon each other; that the lirkes or folding parts thereof may appear the more viuelie for the uses following: thereafter extende it againe in length and bredth, as before it was folded, the broade side lying alwayes justlie to thee (that is, square on the Table before thee, as thou sittest or standest) then folde and sew therein, eight sheetes of cleanlie & wel bearing paper, after this manner. First, folde 6. thereof in the long volume in quarto, for thine owne writing; and sew them justlie on the lirke going thorow the broad side next unto thee, (as is immediatlie afore speci-
fied)

fed) and next, folde the remnante two in the short volume in quarto, for thy Exemplares; and sew one thereof upon the lirke towards or forenenent the right hand, & the other upon the lirke towards or forenenent the left hand: and so the middle lirke (that is, the lirke justlie betwixt both) will be reserved; which requireth to bee cut foorth, the breadth of an itch, from the one ende to the other: and although these two bee thus divided, yet both being conjoyned with the third, will appear as it were three Bookes bound all in one. By vertue of which division, and conjunction, all the Exemplares will both indure longer, and bee kept cleaner, than otherwayes: and that not only by in-laying of one, or of all the Exemplares of the one side, when thou writest by anie of the other: but likewise, when thou discoverest and perusest anie of either side, all the rest, both of that same side, and the other, may bee obscured and reserved. Moreover, cut the outmost Leafe of the Paper whereon thou writest, halfe out on either side; to the effect one of them may lie in-over, and cover the page of the one side of all the Booke, while as thou writest on any page of the other: whether it bee the page alreadie written, or the page next following to write.

Touching the forme of the Copies to bee thus heereunto appended, employ anie cunning Master Writer to write foure Examplares,

either of Secretarie or Romane Hand, (as best agreeth with thy busynesse and inclination) and two Alphabets conforme thereunto, the equall halfe whereof on each side of the Booke, filling the uppermost side of everie Leafe, both towardes the right hand and the left, saving the uppermost Leaues: to wit, the utter Leafe of each side of the Booke, saving the uppermost pages of the two uppermost Leaues, (to wit, the utter Leafe of each side of the Examplare part of the Booke: which, if thou please, may bee reserved to containe thy name or subscription, and that in Secretarie Hand upon the one, and Romane on the other,

And last, let one of the fourre Examplares be great, another greater; one small, another smaller: single and double Letters in one page together, and Capitals in another page by them-selves. And remember to cause all the Copies upon the right side of the Booke serue it selfe, through out all, to wit, the first or left side of each Leafe, all the Examplares of the left side content it selfe also with the Copies thereon, that is, to serue the last, or right side of everie Leafe: and seldom borrow one from another, because both haue alike: whereby they will lie directlie forent thy Face, on whatsoever side thou writest.

When thou intendest to write anie thing of great valour, and haft large time to doe the same,

same, let the paper be cleansed from all haires and motes, that may either hinder the course of the pen, stay it to write cleanlie, or any wayes cause maculation; & that with Stanch graine: which if thou woldest learne to make and use, I remitte thee to these few Rules that bee made in English Verse, at the forefront of that print Exemplar booke set foorth by *Thomas Trippe*, & of other books, by other Writers.

Likewise there be wayes how to take blottes of Inke foorth of paper or parchment; how to boile Inke, and make diverse kinds, and colours thereof; yea, (which is more) to dissolue Golde, and Silver; and to doe sundrie other things concerning curious and secret Writing, Geometrie, Drawing, and Painting: wherein I will not insist, because they are fullic declared in diverse Authors; whereof manie bee more obscure, and tedious to practise, than either needfull, or profitable being practised.

But it is more expedient than needful that either Stanchgrain, or such others as these before mentioned, bee used in all writs concerning all matters, nor yet are they needful for every Writer: for each Practisioner cannot, (nor needeth not) be a perfect Artist; neither is it requisite, that each one that be perfect, take such paines in doing of every common thing, as at some extracrdinarie and rare occasion, when he intendeth either to honour his Countrey, those who

who employ him, or for some particular respects to demonstrate his owne cunning by the exquisitnesse and excellencie of faire Writ.

Concerning the squaring of Paper.

Let the Paper haue dowlble square, that is, two scorcs for euerie line of letters or writ, the first 5. dayes when thou beginnest to learn; whether thou bee to builde on an olde foundation, or to cast downe the same, and begin the Alphabet of new. Which time being expired, let the square evanish by litle and litle the space of 13. dayes, or yet some moe or fewer as thou enrichest in knowledge and practise: for this part of the rule cannot be strietlie observed by all alike, but must of necessitie haue some larger bounds for some than for others; because all be not of one age to conceiue, and thole that bee, cannot conceiue all alike soone; & though they coulde, they cannot with their heart practise that conception alike well.

If thou cast not draw the just meethe of writ lines abruptlie with the point of a Knife, take helpe of Square and Compasse, & fill a sheet of Paper with pefect black scores, all alike distant, of such number as may easilie bee contained on the cleane paper whereupon thou art to writes and each one of such length as thou wouldest haue

haue the lines, and of such breadth as thou wouldest haue the bodies of letters to bee: to the intent that the writing paper being cleanlie and thinne, and the squared paper layde under the same, the scores may appeare therethorow, and so make the lines both to goe directly foorth to the ende, and bee of equall distance. Or thou mayest eyther square the writing paper softlie, with the two points of the Compasse, both the scores with one travell, so narrow or wide as the proportion of the letters requireth; or with a knife, being thicke edged at the point, or else with a small piece of blacke lead, as thou shalt thinke expedient. (As for a penne with a clift, because it hath no such strength as the Compasse, it cannot bee so meete for squaring: for incontinent it will slitte further up in the selfe, and so make the scores to bee further and further distant.) If thou makest choyse of the last of these meanes proponed, and wouldest haue the scores that bee made therewith to evanish, that both the writ may the more viuelie appeare, and thine owne ignorance the lesse; then rubbe them softlie with a piece of Wheate bread, after that the writ is wel dried of its own accorde.

The

THE CONIVNCT MEANES
TO THE WRITER.

*Concerning the gesture or behaviour of the head
and eyes in the act of writing.*

While as thou writest, let thine head bow downe as little as is possible: and if thine eyes haue no infirmitie, looke directlie to the penne as it is in the action; lest, if thou doe otherwayes, thy lines or letters, eyther resemble thine head, by declining; or thine eyes, by wa-
vering.

Concerning the position of the bodie.

Set thy bodie somewhat straight up, that it may leane the lesse to the Table (except when eyther Sight or Light is deficient, or yet the Table too low) And the midle of thy bodie (descarned by the Buttons standing endlonges or downe thy breast) justlie forenenent the border towardes the left hand of the page, so long as it is in quarto. But in greater volumes either of Paper or Parchment, it will not bee amisse, though thy bodie follow the lines so farre as the length of them requireth, if thou usest not

to

to drawe the booke nearer thee at the writing
of each one.

How to holde the armes.

HOlde in thine armes so nigh thy bodie, as
that thine elbowes may remaine within
an handbredth to thy two sides, if the Table be
not too high; lest otherwise if thy right elbow
ly farther foorth, thy lines ascend in the ending;
or if thy left elbow ly farther foorth, they de-
scend in the ending; or if they both ly farther
foorth, they be either elevated and borne up, or
else abandoned & holden bowne in the midst,
irregularlie.

Holde not thy right arm any farther foorth
behinde, than it may ly in over the Table be-
fore, by the length of a spanne; and that by re-
moving thereof, and thy writ, aye forwardes a
little, as lines doe multiply on the volume; to
the effect thine hand may be the more steadfast
both to write well and speedily.

How to holde the handes.

Let thy right hand, which leadeth the pen,
stand or depende on the ende of thy Ring
and little fingers, rather than leane on the knoc-
kles thereof; lest the penne lie aside in such sort,
that

that it neyther touch the paper with both ~~bede~~
aye at ones (as it ought) nor yet haue suffi-
passe for the Inke. And though there be ~~lim~~
confluence or correpondence betwixt this ~~ru~~
and these foure patternes of an hand holding
penne at the fore-ende of the sayd *Thomas Try*
his Booke, and others: yet who list to trie, ~~w~~
 finde this no leise woorthie of imitation ~~an~~
observation than anie of them.

Let not the left hand follow the motione
the right hand, but remaine still on the margin
right forenenst whatsoever line thou writest
and hold therin a Compasse, made for that ~~use~~
of such length as the lines be, to the intent it ~~ma~~
reach to whatsoever part of the line whereth
penne goeth, for keeping of the paper straignt
downe, that it molest thee not while as thou
writest. And for that effect, let the Compas
bee somewhat extended foorth, the one poin
thereof set aboue that line which thou sha
happen to bee writing, and the other under
the same: but in great Volumes, where there be
long lines, the left hand must haue libertie
follow the right, becau'e the whole bodie wil
bee eyther constrained so to doe, or else aye
the ending of one line, to begin another.

Further, let aye thine handes bee cleane, let
not onelie they hinder the Inke to goe thorow
the penne, but so pollute the paper, that though
(with difficultie) the same receive writ, it haue
manifold

manifolde blemishes and defectes, in steade of
beautie and comlinesse.

How to holde the thombe, and fingers.

Let thy thombe and fingers which hold the penne, and chiefelie the formost finger, crooke as little inwardlie as possible thou mayest; but rather bee stretched foorthwith upon or about the penne, as it is in the motion; because it is both the rightest and seemliest forme of holding.

THE GENERALL RVLES
OF INFORMATION.

S E C T. I I.

Comprehending so manie Rules of Information as may be extended generallie, how to write the most usuall Characters.

To follow an Exemplare.

Endevour to resemble a meste perfect Patterne of fayre Writ, carefullie and attentively, till thou write eyther as well, or sufficientlie; if neyther thou canst surmatch it, nor that it cannot bee surmatched.

The

*The puritie and exactnesse requisite
in fayre Writ.*

Let not letters of one sort of Character be mixed within words of another: but each sort serue it selfe, with the Capitall, Single, and Dowble Letters, belonging to its owne Alphabet. Yet there be some who intermingle Secretarie letters in words of Romaine writ, & Romaine letters in words of Secretarie writ: they may mixe their Dishes together as they please, but I will holde mine severall.

How to place Capitall letters in fayre Writ.

Bestow such a faire rowme at the beginning of the first line of thy writ, aboue, under, & within the squares of the same, upon beginning Capitall letters, as is expedient for the quantities thereof: as also the whole rowme betwixt any line which thou shalt happen to write, and the line aboue the same, upon midle Capitals, as they occur and require to bee written. But beware, thou neither permit them to touch the written line aboue (I meane bodies or midle partes of letters therein) nor yet come under the low score of whatsoever line thou shalt happen to write, except those of them that haue tayles.

An

An admonition.

For thy better observing both of the former rule, and of all that follow; thou must consider that every line hath two draughts, either expressed or understande, leading it from the beginning to the end; one therof high, and another low: which sometimes I call *Squares*, and sometimes *Scores*; but I name them never *Lines*, nor *Rules*: both because two of them serue only one line, and that I haue other matter to speake of *Lines* and *Rules*; which therefore I distinguish by severall names, for shunning all ambiguitie, and vncertaintie.

How to write evenlie, without Square.

WHATSOEVER Proportion, Quantitie, and Situation of Letters, great or small; and by consequent, of Silables, Wordes, Sentences or Lines, (I meane, not as they are spoken, but written) thou learnest by Dowble Square, whether it bee by practise alone, practise grounded upon skill, or by consideration had by this booke of both; let the same Analogie be ay kept in all *Set Writ*, and best sorts of *Common Writ*, aswell by imagination without the helpe of Square, as by imitation with it; and that not from the beginning to the

Cending

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How to write evenlie, without Square.

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C

ending

ending of one line absolutelie; but evē constantlie, continewing from the beginning of the first Line of thy writ, to the ending of the last. *And here followeth a perfect way, whereby thou mayest both rightly and easilie observe the same.*

VV Hen one or moe letters having heads, or tailes, or both, or the like, doe occur in words, measure not the letters wāting heads, or tails, or both, that shal happen to ensue, by their heades or tailes; but by their bodies, (at the least, by so much as each one hath of a body, whether whole or halfe) and fayling of all, by the last letters of that sort that preceeded, whether in the same worde, or in the worde preceeding the same, (meaning those letters which want heads, or tailes, or both, as they doe) & that by making a meeche or marke with the pen, knowne only to thy selfe, aiming lineallie and justlie endlongs the scores, from the one to the other: which theu mayest doe, (both on the high square and low, though no square bee expressed) so long as thy skill is weake; howbeit 2. or 4. letters having heads or tails, should intervale.

With what expedition to write.

SInce perfect and commendable writing can neither bee learned by strength, haste, nor speede,

speede; but by slight, patience, and diligence; wherfore, if ever thou wouldest aspire therunto, reject those wrong meanes, & accept the right, that is, write aye attentuelie, sparingly, and carefully, till thou either hit, or shoothe very neare the marke thou aimest at: for 3. lines are better thus written, than 30. otherwayes. And how much leise paper thou spendest by this restraint, thou wilt learne in so much the greater haste; (& so this is a rule of expedition alwayes, though not in speede of doing, to doe much; yet in speede of learning, to doe rightly.) But indeede afterward, thou mayest endevour by degrees to such speede, as not the leise thy writ may be yet correct. And further, let thy skill so appeare even in the celerite of things quickly done, that there yet remaineth much more in thee, the doer; if greater matters should occur, and more fit occasions offer, to essey.

Such Exemplares as bee best, and
meetest to resemble.

IF thou wouldest reap any fruit by the seede of the travells, which thou sowest in this arable fielde; let thy Exemplars bee alwayes so exactlie and authenticklie written, by an expert Writer or Notar in thine owne sight (thou giving attendance at his left side, while as hee

writeth them) that every Letter, Worde, and Phrase therein, may obserue the whole Rules thereof, in so farre as it can extend thereunto. And while as thou resemblest the same, if thou carefully perceiue the true progreſſe of the pen, in casting of letters; and then follow the true pathes and lineaments thereof, as it departeth out of one letter, and entereth into another, but not with the words thereof gotten in memorie by oft writing, thou wilt learne sooneſt with feweſt Copies, but if otherwise, with manieſt; or rather with few, wherein theſentences bee written backwardes: because they will bee ſo much harder, both to get & keepe in minde, & thou ſo much the more moved & coſtrained at the casting and conjoining of every letter, to behold the Patterne: for the remebrance of the ſeſe, and forgetfulneſſe of the letter, bee two chiefe cauſes often times, not only of the long time ſpent, and little proſte obtained, by many that would ſeeme to bee very iſtant and diligent in learning to write; but of the great diſcredit & infamie it breedeth to their iſtructors, who bee iñnoſent of their negligence: for there be manie Parents, who wil not haue their Chil- dren chaſtified, but lovinglie admoniſhēd, al- though it ſhould ayaile never ſo little.

The distance requisite in Faire Writing.

IN Set *writ*, and best sorts of *Common writ*, let all *Single* and *Double Letters*, as also all *Syllables*, *Words*, & *Sentences* or *Lines*; bee of equal distance, each one of its owne kinde from another: that is to say, letter from letter within syllable, when it containeth diverse letters; syllable from syllable within worde, when it containeth diverse syllables; word from word within line, when it containeth divers wordes; and line from line within page, when it containeth diverse lines: except in a *Poeticall*, and sometimes in a *Prose Abreviation* within a syllable, & when a period occurreth within a line, betwixt wordes; letters in the first, and words in the last, require to be farther distant than otherwise. In like manner, not onlie when the whole first line of thy *writ* is great, the second requireth to bee somewhat farther distant therefrom, than anie one of the rest from another; but when thou shalt happen to write anie matter in *Precept* or *Article* manner, it is requisite that eyther thou leaue a line in the beginning, or midst, not out-red, and begin another as nigh as anie of the rest, (as occasion offereth, or as the cause requireth) and that for distinguishing of the severall heads of the subiect: or els, if the *precept* or *article* conclude equallic with the line, thou must pur-

poselie leaue the boundes of a line voyde, be-
twixt the ending of the one, and beginning of
the other, for that same effect. And in all tholē
thinges, both commanded and excepted, as
thou carefullie strivest to obserue, the more de-
cencie and seemlinesse thereby of thy writ, wil
conquest thee the greater commendation.

*The good Order, or Neighbourhood, re-
quisite in fayre writing.*

IN the selfe same writs, let neyther the head
nor tayle of anie letter of one line, doe harme
to the bodie, head, nor tayle of anie letter of
another line; nor yet within the boundes where
they stand, in what soever line: but let each one
bee conveyed, some other way, from another,
and kept (so farre as is possible) within its owne
marches and boundes: which bee knowne by
the high sort of heads, being measured enlongs
aboue the high square; and low sort of tayles,
alonges under the low square: which bee the
indifferent sort of both, as, God willing, shall be
declared particulardlie hereafter in the owne
place.

*The nearest remedie how to bring irregular
Lines in order againe.*

IF thou chance either through ignorance, or negligence, to write out of lineall order, (which thou wilt readily doe, and much more, if thou bee inclined to anie of the two) that is, to make lines up or downe at the beginnings, endings, or midst; take here the next remedie for each one of those faults, being 6. in number: which if thou wilt use, (as thou mayest easilie) the overthrow of that thy labour, will be intercepted through timous care: and that in the line immediatelie ensuing anie wrong line; lest by delay, thou not only anger thy selfe, and others, lose time and travell: but likewise bring thy selfe in so evill a custome of irregularare writing, that thou wilt wearie to write anie at all; if thou bee such a one, as hast others at command to supplie thy place.

First, if thy fault bee in making any line too high in the beginning, then begin the next line so much the lower, and proceede therein the more carefullie, both to the ende, and in the ende.

Secundarilie, if thy fault bee in making anie line over low in the beginning, then begin the ensuing line so much the higher, and proceede therein the more attentiuclie.

Thirdlie, if thy fault be in making anie line to mount over high in the ending, then let the line next following thereafter bee begunne so much the lower: the amendement of the one, and enormitie of the other, beginning and proceeding by equall proportions: and so foorth, by contraries, using the like remedies for the remnant of the former absurdities, and that not of lines onelie, but of written wordes, syllables, and letters also.

Moreover, if diverse lines shall happen to goe wrong, before thou perceiue thine owne errorr therein, then presume not to amende the same altogether in one line; lest thereby the blanke bee so great, that it bee more unseemelie than the fault it selfe; and so the last errorr bee worse than the first. But if thou wouldest extricate & unwind thy self out of that snare, that is, haue thy fault obscured, at least, not so readilie perceived; then amende the same by little and little, in such measure, and number of lines following after, as the errorr contained which went before.

In what boundes to comprebende fayre Writ.

Let thy writ bee seldome dispersed, but rather compact; which will better consist in joyning closelie together of letters or syllables within wordes, than eyther of wordes with

with wordes, or lines with lines: Except at sometimes, when thou art driven to anie extreamitie, through straitnesse, or lacke of rowme, it will be tollerable to use the last compendious meanes, as well as the first: and that by studying seriouslie to containe thy matter in such little boundes as thou hast, (avoyding onelie confusion) than eyther to hazard the valour thereof, or haue thy labour lost: yea, or anie wayes disgraced.

Encouragement against weariness in writing.

IF thou canst not followe the Patterne so neare, nor bee pleased with thy writ, at all times, as thou wouldest, notwithstanding thou haue both convenient occasions when, and necessaries wherewith; yet because even fayre Writers are not able to write alwayes alike well; bee not utterlie discouraged, nor desist therefrom altogether, although at that time thou rest somewhat male-conted: (for perchance thou hast some other meditation in thy minde) but endevour, with resolute courage, to redeeme the same at other occasions, when both thy minde and hand are more bent to concurre in that exercise: For daylie experience teacheth, that manie thinges will bee refused at one time, and yet granted at another.

How to extract anie matter attentiuely.

VVhen thou extractest anie thing of great length, or valour, having long lines, whether on Parchment, or yet Paper, lay a cleanlie square, of correspondent length, aye so justlie upon the lines immediate lie under that line, out of the which thou art copying, as that neyther syllable nor letter thereof appeare, or be licentiate to shew it selfe until the former line be fullic extracted: and therafter, slit the square downe nearer thee a piece, and cover the line therewith that followeth: to the effect, the line that was first covered may kythe it selfe, and the matter thereof likewise bee abstracted: and so foorth, of everie line throughout all the Volume before thee, from the second, to the penult. But before thou write by any line, of the matter before thee, remember to make a small secret tick or mark on the margin therof, just foreuent the beginning of the last extracted line; & so do in each line of the same to the end, for helping of thine owne memorie: because such as be not daylie acquainted with the matter, as well as the letter, perceiving lightlie anie word insert in two lines together, may eyther perhaps take the word written in the last line, in steade of the like worde in the first: or else, the word written in the first line, in place of the like

like worde in the last: and so thereby anie of those lines, being eyther omitted, or repeated, will, out of all question, make thy whole travell of little force or effect.

N O T A.

Although the observation of this former Rule may seeme superfluous, because the forme of extracting therein contained is not so speedie as abrupt writing: yet it may bee answered, that that writer may haue farre sooner done who spendeth a little more time, in performing of anie thing well, than he that writeth rashlie, or unadvisedlie. eyther by omitting or adding some things which bee ought not: and so, when all is done, is forced to write it over again. Is not the Snaile both as goodlike, & cometh as well to her purpose at night, that perhaps hath not crept a foot of ground all the day, as the Swallow, which hath flowne an hundred miles out and in? And whether commeth bee sooner, and in greater safetie, unto his journeys ende, who goeth endlonges a Bridge, although the way therenmo bee somewhat about: or bee that presumeth to crosse a dangerous Ferrie at the nearest, exposing himselfe to the adventure of Boate, Tide, and Tempest: and yet being eyther greatlie hindered of his Voyage, indangered of his person, or disappointed of his purpose, will afterwardes bee forced to goe about, when all other meanes haue fayled him? Is he not then double farther out of the way, (besides the losing of much time, and casting himselfe in the former dangers) than if bee had gone somewhat about willinglie at the first?

ALIA.

ALIA.

When thou writest anie thing, of great importance, it is requisite to lay a sheete of cleane paper under thine hand which writeth, covering the whole paper wherem thou writest: and another to cover all the writ it selfe (except aye the three last written lines: that by the order, and compactnesse thereof, the rest which follow may bee measured) and that for preserving of both, from all blottes of Inke, which may occurre, and anie such danger they may incurre.



THE SPECIALL
PART OF THIS
BOOKE:

*Containing the particular Rules
of Information, and all the
Rules of Perfection, how to write the
most usuall Characters; but chieflie the
SECRETARIE, which is set downe heare, both
for it selfe, and in place of all the rest.*

THE PREFACE.



HE Causes wherefore I ins-
ist not particularlie, in an
sort of Charaeter, but the SE-
CRETARIE, bee three in
number: First, because maniest
like it best, both for the excel-
lencie and celeritic thereof: and
there-

therefore is nowe used through out the moste part of E V R O P E , but chiefelie in His Ma- jesties Dominions. Secondlie, for the Naturall Affection I owe to His Highnesse, all His Sub- jectes, (whereof I am one) and to all His Ma- jesties Realmes, but chiefelie S C O T L A N D , my natuie Countrey. And thirdlie , for short- nesse cause: for doubtlesse if the whole sortes of Characters , which bee comprehended under the generall Name, W R I T I N G , and whereof this S E C R E T A R I E is one, were as largelie taught, by Rules of Arte, as it is, and all the par- ticular differences thereof declared, I suspect that Worke would bee so tedious, and the Vo- lume thereof so great, that the space of a Mans Dayes would bee over little to write it , and not too much to reade it.

Therfore I haue made choyse to giue speciall Rules for one sort of Character , and generall Rules for all the rest: howbeit manie of the Speciall Rules will agree also unto sundrie of the most usuall Characters: (although not to them all, nor yet strictlie to everie part of those, unto which they agree) and so , both Generall and Speciall, in effect, serving as Rules, and the di- verie sortes of Writ comprehended under the Name, S E C R E T A R I E , as Examples: because in anie Grammar all the Language is not expres- sed: for then it would spende the whole dayes of the Aged, let bee of the Youth, to passe tho- row:

rowe: but compendiouslie directed unto by Preceptes, and briefelie demonstrated by Examples: yea, often times one thing expressed, representing an 100. thinges understood. And as Grammars were made of certaine Observations, partlie heard by the Eare, and partlie collected foorth of Auncient Authors of before: so is this Grammar made to agree with the most easie and common Practique, observed by all skilfull and fayre Writers, which haue beene, and nowe are (as it pleaseth God.) And where-as the Practise of fayre Writing doeth preceede the Preceptes thereof, so manie Latine Authors are anterious to the Latine Grammar. And it is certaine, there hath beene as perfect Latine before there was a Grammar, as there was fayre Writing before this Booke, which is the Grammar thereof. And if the Latine Grammar bee the Key of all Learning, this Grammar is the Key of that Grammar: because it can hardly bee learned without the use of Writing: Ergo, the Grammar of fayre Writing is the Key of all Learning: For, to haue a Key locked up, and want the Key of the Place where it lieth, is (as it were) to haue a fine Bow, but it is in the Castle. And insomuch as some doe alleadge, that the Latine Grammar may bee learned without the use of Writing, or the Grammar thereof: the Answere is, So may Learning bee as well had without the use of the Latine Grammar: I meane,

meane, by exercising the Works of ancient Authors for obtaining of the language, till they aspire thereby unto farther learning: but none of them so soone, nor yet so well, as by these ordinarie meanes. And albeit I had given the Title [GRAMMAR] unto this Booke, it had not bene amisse; because it would not haue bene repugnant to the nature thereof: for the originnall worde, *γραμμα*, signifying *Litera*, beeing generallie applyed, may be aswell, yea, (I may say) better, attributed unto letters, than unto languages. And as touching the common use of a Grammar, such as Declining, Comparing, Conjugating, Forming, and Constructing of Words; here the like of all these things is done of letters; howbeit in another forme, which is proper unto it selfe: for, as a declinable Worde is declined through diverse Cases, from the straight Nominatiue; so is a variable Letter bowed and chainged from the right Proportion thereof, through divers occasions of practise, & otherwise framed in one written Word, than in another; as likewise it is compared or made equall, with another of the owne kinde, conjugated or conjoyned, formed or fashioned, and constructed or set, at diverse occasions, in diverse written Words, as the proprieties thereof doe require. But yet since the Title [GRAMMAR] is alreadie chosen, and become common to diverse languages, I will not insist to compare with

with them, nor striue for it: both because I haue
other as good Titles at command; and they are
more to bee pitied nor envyed, which haue but
one Title amongst them all: and what regarde,
if it were not borrowed too?

And albeit strictlie, (that is , in everie jot)
the Rules and Exemples of this Booke, doe
not agree to all the most usuall sortes of Cha-
racters , but to the most part ; yet largely they
may all be both better considered, and followed
thereby , than otherwayes : and any diligent
Practicer that is experimented , by joyning
both the Generall and Speciall parts in practise
together , may easilie renowe anie little diffe-
rence betwixt whatsoever Rule thereof, and the
like place of whatsoever other Character,
which it shall happen them to choose rather
than the Secretarie. It is true, I can hinder none
to preferre any Character they please there-
unto; but so farre as I can perceiue, the extent
of the Rules thereof reacheth as farre , as the
boundes of anie other: and therefore, they may
both easier bee conferred therewith, to knowe
the difference, and applied therunto, to learne
the Skill and practise.

I acknowledge, it is now time that wee come to the
particular forme how to write: but first thou must know
what to write, and I must propone unto thee some things
to be considered, for thy better enterprizing of the action:
for if thou runnest rashlie therunto, without some far-

ther consultation, it can no w^{ay}es bee rightlie accom-
plished.

Thou must consider, that all usuall writing
doeth consist in the right composing of the
afore saide Symboles, or Signes of the Voyce,
which bee Letters, Syllables, Wordes, and Sen-
tences, or Lines; because in expressing of them,
all kinde of Articulate Voyce, may bee under-
stoode; and consequentlie, all Thoughtes of the
M^{an}de uttered: for Syllables doe consist of Let-
ters, Wordes of Syllables, and Sentences, or
Lines, of VVordes.

They are justlie called Symboles, or Signes
of the Voyce, as well for the sound which they
signifie, beeing written, and is expressed, while
as their Names are uttered, being read; as either
for the matter of their composition, or manner
of their proportion: as I shall doe good will pre-
sentlie to make plaine in particular.

In a Letter are foure things to bee consid-
ered: to wit, the Forme, the Knowledge, the
Name, and the Sound: each one of these pro-
ceeding of another, being ranked according to
their Age, or time of being, (to allude so) which
Age doeth proceede from the Forme: because a
Letter can haue no age, till first it bee formed:
and so the age beginneth immediatlie after the
forming thereof. In like manner, the Know-
ledge commeth from the Forme, (I meane
only by his knowledge who readeth) the Name
from

from the Knowledge, and the Sound from the Name: and therefore, all these are internall, or rather significatiue, except the Forme, which is onelie externall, or demonstratiue: because it pointeth foorth, or signifieth, all the rest. But if thou ranke them conforme to their value, thou must turne them up-side-downe, making the Sound of a Letter to haue the first place, the Name the second, the Knowledge the third, (I meane onelie the knowledge of a Letter) and the Forme the fourth. For if the sound of a word uttered could always continue, and not weare out, nor evanish in the Aire, as soone as it is spokē, there would bee little or no use for Writing: And therefore a Letter (I meane simplie a Letter) is called a Letter, (that is, a Blotte) rather because it is a Signe which representeth some small part of the Voyce, being written, (for it becommeth the same much it selfe when it is read) than eyther for the externall forme thereof, or matter whereof it is formed: because the sound which doeth proceede from the name, is the superiour qualitie, or use of the Letter: but the forme or frame of the Letter, whereby the name is knowne, is but a Signe, or Figure, representing that sound. And although the sound bee Symbolicke, yet it is to bee understood, as if it were reall, (to speake so.) And as no musicall or sounding Instrument can giue perfect sound, till the hand or mouth stirre up the same: so

these Signes or Symboles cannot sound of their owne accord, but remaine and ly dead (as it were) til the voyce of the tongue reviue them, sounde them, waken them up. A written syllable, is rather called a sillable; because it signifieth a great part of the voyce, (I meane, chiefly when it consisteth of diverse letters) than for anie respect eyther to the matter or forme of the letters themselues whereof it is composed. A written Worde, is rather called a Worde, because it representeth a greater part of the voyce, which beeing uttered, beateth the Aire; than for anie regard eyther to the matter or forme of the syllables, or letters, which bee included therein. And a written sentence, is named a sentence, rather because it signifieth the greatest or longeſt sound, or part of the voyce, (that is, the perfect meaning, and value of the wordes, one, or moe, which it doeth comprehend) than for the matter, or composition of the words themselues, as they bee written. And whereas in the singular number, a simple letter, (that is, not an Hieroglyphik letter, signifying a syllable, word, or sentence) bee a darke and unperfect symbole of the voyce; because it signifieth the least part thereof: yet letters in the plurall number, are bright, and perfect enough: because thereof doe consist all the other three: the first whereof is viue, the second viver, and the thirde moſte viue of all. And ſo the Cogitations of the Mind, Speaches

Speaches of the Tongue, and Writing with the Hand; or rather the person gisted with these three, may bee compared unto a Clocke, which striketh Houres, or measureth Time: For the secret turninges, motions, and passages thereof, (and chiefelie the restleſſe Watch,) signifieth the Cogitations: the Bell that uttereth the particulars of time, (or becommeth Attourney in discharging the will of the Clocke) signifieth the speaches: and the Dyall that declareth both what is meant & spoken, signifieth writing. And whereas speaking and writing doe often times proue contrarywise, it proeedeth of inconstancie, and dissimulation; even as false striking, and demonstrating of wrong houres, doe proceede of an ill tempered Clock.

And albeit Reading bee often times used without uttering of the Voyce, and therefore may bee thought to enervate, and cut away, the Pipes of the Sound, signified by these Symbols, or, at the least, attributed unto them: yet it is otherwayes: for such kinde of Reading proeedeth rather of some contracted habite, or custome of the sound of Letters, learned of before through oft reading; than of the speculation, or inspection, of their Forme, which then is seene. Otherwise, wee could no more reade without uttering of the written wordes which wee see, than expreſſe them without a viue sight thereof; I meane such as wee haue not recent in our

memorie. And so albeit the right fashioning of Letters belongeth to this Arte, yet the meaning and sounding thereof pertaineth to reading, (except onelie in verball instructing of the Youth to write, they must needs both bee named and sounded, as well as fashioned and knowne) but indeede the knowledge belongeth equallie to both: for as the Skilfull Writer knoweth , at the least imagineth, the right fashion of Letters in his minde , before his hand write them: even so the perfect Reader , when eyther hee feeth, or findeth them written, immediatelie knoweth their Names, by their Fashion: and while as hee readeth, eyther by expressing, or suppressing of the wordes, the one must be by sounding of their Names, (although not fullie, or at length, of everie name particullarie) and the other, by usuall remembrance of that found: which is ingraffed in memorie, thoro the often seeing of their frame, that signifieth the same.

And , if it shall happen to bee demanded, wherfore I medle with anie thing here in Writing, which belongeth unto Reading : it may bee answered, Even because Writing and Reading are not onelie Brethren, (to allude so, excluding all diversitie of Gener) but unseparable Companions: in nature, though not in use: and the younger of these dependeth on the elder: and it is certaine, that anie thing which dependeth,

deſt, of neceſſitie muſt fall, if it want the ſub-
jeſt whereunto it leaneth. For as Writing is
the Subject of Reading, ſo it is the Object alſo
to the perſon that readeth. Againe, doeth not
Naturall Reaſon proue, that Writing is older
than Reading, how little ſoever it bee? For no
Writ can be read, before it be written: (I meane
not by the internall conſideration thereof, but
by the exterrnall action) and it were needless,
to write anie thing, but that which may bee
read, by ſome, eyther in private, or publicke.
Moreouer, right Writing ſurmatcheth perfect
Reading, as farre as Doing ſurmatcheth Saying:
(I meane in Civile attempts, and equalitie
of goodneſſe) for it is farre easier to ſpeakē a
VVord, than to doe an Action: or to expone
what a thing meaneth, beeing latelie paſt, than
to propone the overtture thereof before it was
imagined. And ſo, though they bee not diſſe-
rent in nature, yet there is no comparison be-
twixt them in excellencie. For if it bee re-
plied, that the VVorde of G O D may bee
read, and furnish comfort unto the reader there-
of; it may bee anſwered, that it could not bee
read, were not (prayſed bee G O D) it is
ſo graciouslie written.

It reſteth ondrie in this place, that I ſhould
define the afore-named Symboles of the Voyce,
before I proceede: but I thinkē it more conve-
nient, as each one is ſet downe ſeverallie in its

owne place. It is true, they are defined alreadie in the Latine Grammar: yet because I am (with Gods grace) to insist in them particularlie, I cannot, without reprehension, speake largelie of anie thing, except first I declare what it is: for perhaps manie will peruse this Booke, who never learned Latine, nor knewe the use of the Grammar thereof: and so because it were a foolish illusion, to sende such to seeke an unknowne errand in an unknowne part, (I meane unto them) the definitions of the former signes cannot bee pretermitted, nor passed by. And therefore, I begin, and proceede, hencefoorth, as they giue occasion of matter: but it behoveth mee to speake most largelie of Letters, beeing the chiefest sort, because all the other three depende thereon: and then so much of the rest as maketh for mee, in the illustration and manifestation of the deepnesse and secrecie of the inatter. And whereas the Section of Letters, is not onelie farre greater than all the other three, but almost filleth up as much of this Volume, as all the remnant Contentes therein; it is not done without cause: for this whole Arte consisteth of Letters, because the Subject it selfe is Letters: and what is written beside Letters, proceedeth of Letters: at least, by occasion thereof, even as the three last partes of the Latine Grammar, proceede of the first: and therefore is it not as large alone as al the other three?

THE



THE PARTICULAR RVLES OF INFOR- MATION.

Sect. I.

CONCERNING LETTERS.

The Preambles, and Introduction, to Letters.



Letter is a simple voyce, meete either to represent, or to bee a part of the literall signification of one or moe written words.

The maine and principall scope of this Speciall part, is the aiming at the Alphabet, like as it will shew it selfe anone, containing all usuall Single and Double Letters, belonging unto the Secretarie Charakter: but albeit thou haue once all enrolld together (for the Rules cause of Numeration

tion and Division) yet if thou intendest not to teach others, but learne for thine owne use; I haue heere also prepared for thee, an easier and brieffer Rew, comprehending the most usuall and necessarie Letters thereof, and two Verses conforme thereunto, with ten compendious Preceptes, directing howe to followe the same: all collected, and composed together, in forme of Abridgement: which if thou diligentlie haunt, and in anie reasonable measure resemble, although thou knewest no more in writing, (saue some of the most necessarie Rules of Preparation) it may suffice to further thee in thine Effaires.

But not to write at all, is both shame, and Skaithe: Shame for two causes: first, because whosoever seeth that thou canst not write, knoweth thee to bee ignorant of all kinde of Learning: and why? because Writing is the Key or beginning of all Learning: and if thou want the Key or beginning of a thing, howe canst thou haue entrance thereunto, or begin the same? for God hath put farre moe differences (blessed bee Hee) betwixt a Man and a Beast, than Reason and Speach. And secondlie, it is shame both to employ a Notar to subscribe for thee, in anie Securitie, and to want that good Token of Education, which perhaps thine Inferiour hath: for wheresoever anie Man of Honest Ranke reporteth who cannot write, (chiefelie where hee is not

is not knowne) he is incontinent esteemed either to bee bale borne, or to haue beene basely brought up, in a base or Moore-land Desert, that is, farre from any Citie, where there bee Schooles of Learning, Discipline, Policie, and Civilitie. And skaith, not only in attending & paying a Notar for the former cause, and in neglecting thy urgent businesse, through want thereof, chiefly which concerneth Compts, & Messives; but in discovering and revealing both of thy minde and estate, unto these whom thou employest thereanent. And though at that time, they conciliate friendship, and bee sociall with thee; yet it is incident often times, (as there is little soliditie here, in things beneath) that a friende to night, will become an enemie to morrowe, and so publish of thee what hee knoweth: and suppose constancie doe even continue, thou wilt stand in awe both to say and doe before him as thou wouldest; because a great part of thy secrecie lyeth on the tongue of thy Secretarie: and perhaps sleepeth as unsoundly there, as on the Top-Mast of a Ship, in a stormie night. Therefore, if thou be such a one, whether the negligence hath beene in thy Parents, Friends, or in thy selfe, striue thou yet to amende the same, if thine age bee within 40. yeares, whether thou canst reade or not; because the dint thereof now striketh on thee: for, some aboue that age, haue learned to write,

write, that never of before knewe a Letter, (no, not of Print, let bee of Writ,) but such as they had latelie learned of their owne Domestickes, as it is both better, and more commendable, to learne late, nor never; and of Inferiours, rather than want the benefite thereof altogether: but immediatlie after they haue learned somewhat to reade, they haue begun also to write, and then in short time haue known how to reade other Mens writ, by the like Letters in their owne writ, and so haue proceeded, from one Degree to another, till they both could write and reade, Comptes and Messiues sufficientlie: for oftentimes one that wanteth all, neglecteth all; and those who haue some beginning of a thing, seeke to a farther growth thereof: there would bee no Harvest, if there were no Seede-time: and if a Merchand would never use Merchandise hencefoorth untill hee got a great Summe, wherof to make his Stocke, there would bee scarcelie one then, for tenne now. So, how ignorant soever thou bee, if thou canst apprehende thine owne wantes, and haue anie disposition to learne, the reading of this Booke will (with the helpe of God) furnish thee Skill to write, and diligence will soone bring foorth habite thereof: for if it please God to blesse but one graine of Seede, it will increase an hundredth folde: then despise never a meane beginning, if it bee good, suppose it bee hard.

But

But whether thou make choyse of the great Alphabet, which comprehendeth the small; or the small alone: presume never to learne anie Capitall Letters, till thou (in some measure) be perfect of the Single and Double; both by writing of them severallie in Alphabet, and joyntlie in writ: and that not onelie because they are easier to learne; but because all writ standeth more by them, than by the Capitals, and so the more needfull to bee had: for in anie matter, eyther written or Printed, thou wilst finde aye ten Single and Double Letters, (at the least) for one Capitall.

Heere may arise a Question: Howe can the Capitals bee learned by the ensuing Alphabet, seeing it containeth none but the sortes of *A*? To the which I answere, They may bee learned thereby for two causes: first, who will not contente, but any judicious person (though he shold never travell out of his Natiue Countrey) may sufficientlie understand the Situation and forms of all the Empires, and Kingdomes of the Worlde, by diligent consideration, and often perusing, of the Vniversall Carde? and yet it containeth not so much as one of the least, but is contained it selfe, in little rowme. Then, why may not they farre better consider one thing suppressed, by another which is expressed.

Secondlie, it is not mine intention eyther to set downe Patternes of diverse sortes of Characters

raetters heere, (howbeit I haue manie prepared) nor yet all the Capitals of this same Character, but rather holde mee by the Arte it selfe, and that for foure respetes :

Firſt, becauſe there bee ſo manie Printed Bookes, both alreadie extant, and daylie ſetting foorth, which doe containe all ſortes of Characters, Capitals, and fayre Writ; that it were little more needfull, than to carrie water to the Sea, if Expences ſhould be beftowed on the Founding & Ingraving of Yrons for them, or anie others, but ſuſh as cannot bee wanted, nor omitted: for the drift of this Discouſe requireth onelie the exhibition and demonstration of ſome, for the better conſideration and practiſing of all. And therefore, and for the reaſons immeſiatelie pre-ceeding, I ſpeake in the Variations and Degreſſions of Letters, and other places of this Booke heereafter, as plainlie of all Capitals underſtoode, by the 4. onelie which bee exprefte; as if they were all exprefſed together in one Cata-logue.

Secondlie, because this Booke ſerveth as a Grammar to all writing; and conſequentlie, to the right following of all the ſortes of Exemplaſes which bee comprehended in ſuſh as the aforesaid Bookes; and ſo i. of another nature than they bee: for it containeth no moe ſortes of Letters, nor Exemplaſes than may ſufficientlie explaine and prooue the Rules thereof: even as

as DISPUTERS Grammar, being a perfect Abridgement of the whole Latine Language, (since thereby, as one of the best, all Poesies, and other Workes in Latine, bee both concei-
ved, and followed) demonstrateth no moe Ex-
emples nor authorities, than may explicate and interprete the Rules thereof: for if Grammars did comprehend all the matter of thinges at length, wherof they briefelie treate, they would cease to be Grammars, (I meane concerning the use of them) and that for too great prolixitie, in stead of compendiositie: because then each one of them would bee of so hudge a Volume, that the understanding of the whole Language, and Treatises of the Bookes whereat they aime, would bee alsoone apprehended, by the capacie of Students, as the Grammar it selfe; and so then both alike tedious to learne and consider.

Thirdlie, because anie who intende not to instruct others, haue store of Exemples in this selfe same Booke, containing also diverse Capitale; which Exemples may serve for Exemplares both of Capitals and Writ: and therefore, if they rightlie peruse these Exemples, and the Abridgement of this Arte following hereafter, they will neede no Exemplare-Booke at all. But as for those who desire to bee better grounded, they must proceede more formally in using of the meanes: that is, first, striue to understand the former part of this Booke, before they come to

to these Exemples: next, endevour to conceiue them, and the Rules whereof they arise, severallie, when they come thereunto: and in the third rowme, employ some faire writer to extract all the Exemples of this Booke on a sheete of cleane paper, and make one Exemplar of them al, to resemble: for it has these rules which other Copies want. And though it be not all of one Matter, because the sentences thereof are diverse; yet it is so much the better, for resemblance of the Letters whereof it is composed; because it is so much the worse both to bee gotten, and kept in memorie: for while as a student learneth to write, it is the Letter, and not the Matter, he hath to follow; but having or being learned, it is the Matter, and not so much the Letter, whereunto hee must haue regarde.

And fourthlie, for shortnesse, and avoyding of prolixitie: for if all the Capitals, which belong unto the Secretarie, were insert heere in such manner as I first intended, it would make the Alphabet so great, and seeme so difficult, that it would affray (at the least hinder) manie, at the first sight, from esleying thereof, who had not some reasonable beginning before. Hee is not a wise Instructor, or eyther hath little to instruct, or desireth fewe to profit by that which he hath, who sheweth foorth the whole secrecie, and curiositie of his Skill, unto his Disciples at the fist, (thinking then to teach them

them the same) but by little and little, as they are in anie measure perfect in one thing, to demonstrate and adde thereunto another: and so foorth, daylie (as it were to beguile them) by drawing and leading them aye farther and farther on) till they eyther learne all, or the moste necessarie Documents and Experiments which hee hath to teach. It is true, Capitall Letters are more difficult to imitate, than the Single and Double: but having first learned the Single and Double, the Capitals then become easie to resemble. It would bee verie hard to cause a Rudimentener make a Right Theame, or Latine Verse: but having learned the Rudimentes, and proceeded orderlie thorowe all the Grammar, Theanie, (yea, Verse, if hee haue the Poeticall Veine) will become as easie then to make, as Litera was of before to decline. So there bee manie thinges which seeme unto Gazers verie admirable, and wonderfull, thorow appearance of curiositie, beeing completed; which if they had seen eyther in the beginning, or in the midst of the doing, or before the accomplitshing; they would haue beeene so farre from admiring the same, that they could haue holpen, and beeene partakers of the action therof themselves. And though there cannot (nor needeth not) bee such Rules prescribed for Capitall Letters, as for Single and Double; yet there be sufficiencie of Rules heere concerning them:

and what is pretermitted in the one, is remitted to the other: and that not by direction of Precept, but by due consideration, and diligent attention, of the peruser. Thus much concerning the Preambles, and introduction to Letters, and the absence or retaining of Capitals soorth of thy light, so long as thou art weake, untill a more convenient time, that thou bee readier for them, as for stronger Foode.

*The number and forme, of the most necessarie and
usuall Letters, belonging to the Se-
cretarie Character.*

THE Letters of the Secretarie Character heere expressed, bee 147. conforme to their varietie of sortes; and but 23. conforme to their diversitie of Names: counting fiftie score to the hundredth, after the Arithmetical Calculation: and each sort of Aspiration, or *b*, as one amongst the rest, for the Rules cause: and though *b* bee not a Letter in Latine, yet it is one in writing: for if it were not written, how could it bee? Then they bee all different in sortes, but not in names; because there bee aye diverse sortes under one name, as thou mayest perceiue by this their forme of standing upon double square; which is not made here, nor should bee made else where, to keepe Letters justlie in line, or lines evenlie in order: but for the

the better consideration of the Proportion, Quantitie, and Situation of the Letters themselves; beeing so framed, measured, and bounded, as heere may bee seene, as well by the decent Ranke kept of their sortes, as Alphabeticall Order observed of their Names.



• **VV**Hich Character I divide three manner of wayes: the first I call Variations, or Degressions of Letters; declaring the severall sortes of Secretarie-hand writ: the second I call Divisions, or Denominations of Letters; declaring their severall sortes by their names: and the third I call Comparations, or Descriptions of Letters, for understanding the differences thereof, by their manner of proportion, of their proportion by their quantitie, and of their quantitie by their situation, as they bee bounded upon the two squares; that is, betwixt, aboue, and under them: in so farre as their limitation or circumscription can bee extended.

*The Variations, or Degressions, of all the variable
or degredible Letters of this Character,
from their originall proportion.*

THIS Character doeth comprehendre two chiefe sortes of Secretarie-hand-writ, *Set* and *Common*: Set writ is written two manner of wayes, which differ more in quantitie & use, than in qualitie and substance: first, it is written with a great penne, in great proportion, at the Head clauses, or Sentences, commonlie used in the beginniges, middles, or endinges of Bookes and Evidences: and with a small penne,

penne, in small proportion, in the remnant of such Head-clauses or Sentences; and that eyther when the matter is great, the person to whome it belongeth, or both.

Likewise, it is of two sortes; the first whereof is a more principall forme of its owne nature than the second: because the one by principalitie is the Roote, and the other by descent the Branch: for the chiefer forme must needes bee aye fayrer and better written than the secundarie, and so is more legeable: which therefore challengeth the first place throughout all the Alphabet: that is to say, the first choyse both of all sortes and names of Letters therein, whether expresseſſed or ſuppreſſed, belongeth unto it, and to none other. But as it is a degree better than the other, in respect of the exquitenesse, and exactneſſe thereof, being done; ſo it is a degree worse than the other, in respect of a degree of longer time, which it consumeth by flowneſſe in doing: yet notwithstanding, ſat ci-
tò, ſi ſat benè, a thing well done, may verie well bee eſteemed as ſoone done, excluding anie compt of *Time*, unleſſe it bee all the more pinched.

The ſecond ſorte then, is a leſſe principall forme of its owne nature than the first, but not ſo ſlow; eyther whereof hath a relevant reaſon for probation: leſſe principall, (I ſay) for al-though it haue the first choyſe of all the Letters

to the great written wordes at the beginnings, or within the bodie of it; yet it hath not the first choise of all the Letters to the small writ thereof, but of some: seeing the first choise of Capitals both expressed and understood, *Minum Letters*, and all others, except two, to wit, the first *l* and *t* of the Alphabet, are proper onelie, and therefore reserved to the preceeding forme: and heerein standeth the difference. Not so slowe, (I sayde) because the seconde choise of Capitals, expressed and understood, *Minum Letters*, and such others, that the former sort refuseth, are not so slow, and may therefore bee written in shorter space than the first choise of these Letters: and since so they bee, they permit not this forme, which consisteth of them, to bee so slow as the other: for all writ is mightilie made up of *Minum Letters*.

Againe, it is no indignitie unto this sorte of writ, to suffer these Letters remaine with the former, and that for three respectes: first, because it is the right owner of them, for the reason afore mentioned. Secondlie, because this forme vindicateth and obtaineth the use of manie of the remenant Letters unto it selfe, whereof the former sort is composed; and so these Letters are constrained to yeelde subjection unto both the formes alike: for reiteration and doing of them often over againe, maketh them so plentifull, and abundant, that they are always equallie

equallie present in eyther sort, as neede requireth: by reason whereof there is some analogie and concordance betwixt these two formes. And thirdlie, as touching those Letters which it cannot obtaine, (beeing so preciselie kept by the right owner) it hath both as great a commendation, and is as well served without them, because it hath speedier Letters for them, than if it had them, because they are so slow.

Surelie, because there is a right time of all things, I must (with licence) amplifie this point, by declaring the decay of these two preceeding formes of fayre WRIT, immediateli described, and what Skalbe fayre Writers haue thereby, althoug h I should seeme somewhat to digresse: Fayre WRITING was woon to bee no lesse needfull than well maintained, and fayre Writers had in due regard and estimation: but now, partie in respect of the late invention of P R I N T I N G, and partie in respect of the desolation of sumptuous WRITING, the most part choose rather to content themselves with the incongruitie, or irregularitie of Common or Current writ, because it is bothe cheape and bastilie done; than to bestow a little more, and attend somewhat longer upon the elegantnesse or singularitie of SET WRIT. And so this is a Brazen Time for the small number of expert Writers, by whome it pleaseib G O D even to keepe (as it were) some spunke of life in fayre WRITING, that it extinguish not altogether: and a Golden Time for those who haue sure Offices, and Servants who haue anie current forme to write for them: for though they

themselves doe nothing but subscribe, their Clients, with all employmemente, appertaining to such Places as they posseſſe, are ſo aſtrited, and thirled unto them, that they can neyther paſſe by, over, nor thorow, anie other way. Wherefore, the ignorant, and base-minded ſort of theſe Writers, beeing ſo puffed up, with ſuch Prerogatiues and Prefermentes, beyonde their Brethren, deride and ſcorne anie thing of the ſublimitie of the arte, howbeit they could no wayes liue ſo gorgeouſlie, nor maintaine anie ſuch Traines as they doe, without it: whereaſ, if a fayre Writer, who hath no ſure office, could doe never fo well himſelfe, eyther in writing, or employments therunto be- longing, if hee will not lay aside all his doing, and eyther teach Childeſen to doe, or bee a Slave unto ſuch as theſe, his Gift will avayle him little. And while as hee im- braceth and maketh choyſe of the firſt, and employeth his Skill and diligēce thereaenent, if hee will not make each one as perfect as himſelfe, at the leaſt, the hardeſt of engine, ſtiffest and heaviest handed, to conceiue and proſiue as well as the moſt pregnant witted, ſoupleſt and cleauiest handed; theſe who beſtow leaſt, as theſe who bee moſt thankefull and liberall; and thoſe who bee urged to learned with correction, as thoſe who doe willing- lie, with pleasure and delight: the fault is altogether im- puted unto him, and no wayes unto them: and ſo bee is eyther reputed as iſfamous, or elſe not woorthie of his Place.

In like manner, if they leaſne young, and not con- tinue to bee kept in riſh: uſe, where or with whom they learned, and ſo become worse, the fault is alſo layde upon the
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their Teacher, though against conscience they dissimilateli speake onething, and thinke another whosoever so doeth: for they know well, that no Man, and faire leſſe a Childe, can keepe anieting in memorie, but that which hee useth: yea, (I say farther) though a Student even passe his Course in all the Liberall Sciences, if afterwardes hee exercise not his Studies, his Clergie will evanish like the Snow before the Sunne, and yet shall bee, or anie that belong unto him, blame his Teachers, if so bee that they did their duetie unto him, the time hee was with them?

Moreover, manie Parentes so loue their Children, (but with the wrong loue which Salomon of eu forbiddeth) that they will not believe they haue anie faults, except they bee notorious: and incase they believe, they cannot suffer to heare thereof: and if accidentlie they die heare, they jo mislike their Childrens Instructor, if hee affirme the same, (as a lawfull excuse perhaps of their hard successe) that die what bee can, or use what Apologie bee please, it will bee hard for him ever to obtaine their favour againe: and it were little matter, if they made not all their Friendes and Associates of the same minde, by their scandalous and sinistrous information. Wherefore, all that bee hath taught to others, or can doe himselfe, is set to little availe, because both come within the compasse of his estimation, and his estimation dependeth not so much on his owne doing neyther, as on Childrens progresse in learning, yea, ofteatimes on their bare testimonie, without anie warrand: and what is eyther more inconstant or foolish, than a Childes report?

But what regarde if it were not oftentimes better belis-
ved than the verie Sacred Scripture it selfe, and
their Childish desire not more yeelded unto?

Common or facile Writ, hath not onelic all,
the remnant unchosen Letters of the Alphabet
properlie belonging unto it, but both borro-
weth oftentimes, the first choysse of all Capitals,
from the first sort of Set hand, and arrogateth
the second choysse of Minum Letters from the
second; and that by right of place, and conse-
quentlie by option of choosing: whereupon
ariseth a controversie betwixt the saide second
forme of Set hand, and this present forme,
which anone it behooveth mee to discusse, be-
cause the decision thereof it submitted and re-
ferred unto me, (in stead of a more competent
Judge) and I haue both accepted the same, in
and upon me, and under-taken to pronounce
definitiue sentence therein, with all possible di-
ligence: but first, (as it becommeth all Earthlie
Judges) I will heare both the Parties.

The principall sort, challengeth and taketh
the second choysse of Minum letters unto it
selfe; because it hath ever bene in use of them
by indoubted right, acclaimed by station of se-
cond place, and option of second choosing.

And the common sort, alledgedeth, that al-
beit those letters would seeme to pertaine unto
the other sort, by the same pretended and
dissembled right of place and choosing; yet
they

they ought not, because this sorte hath bee[n] cloathed with possession thereof these manie yeares, past memorie of man: and therefore cannot of equitie bee frustrated now of that ancient right, except there had bee[n] renunciation or disposition made thereof, and anie of these Titles produced for instructing.

Nowe for remooving of these Questions, and Debates, I repell and refute the last al-leadgeance, because the proponer thereot is not able to prooue the Antiquitie of possession mentioned therein: and although it might bee prooved, it were no just cause to take away inheritable Right: and therefore I descearne, that these debatable Letters belong to the principall sort; because it hath undoubted Right thereunto, by vertue of second place, and second choo-sing: but because the *Common sort* becometh indigent, or destitute of Minum letters, by occasion of this Decreet, which I could not es-chew, but behoved to pronounce, according to Justice, I will not utterlie discourage nor dam-nifie it, but haue a charitable respect thereunto, and the rather, because it is more prompt and needfull in common businelle, than the principall sorte it selfe, (as all common meanes bee, rather than speciaall meanes.) I therefore, wite ye mee to haue assinged, and disponed, & by these presentes assigne and dispone the like sorte of Minum letters, to the sayde desolate forme, and that

that by doubling of such Letters in the Alphabet, as haue no constant difference from those which were latelie questionable. Likewise, with expresse advise, and consent of eyther sorte, I ordaine, that they shall bee both served alike, with all that sorte of Minum letters, as well debated, as added; and that there shall bee mutuall and reciprocall proportion of borrowing and lending, affinitie, peace, and amitie, betwixt these formes continuallie heereafter, so long as there shall bee anie extract of this Booke extant, wherein this their submission and ordinance of peace is thus registrated.

And on the other side I ordaine, that these sortes of Minum letters giue equall obedience to both the sortes of Writ, and serue them indifferentlie, and that by reiterating of them selues so often as need shall require, or occasion offer, though it were in one Page, yea, in one line, since they themselues were doubled, or the number of them added for that effect: and none other sorte added with them, nor put for them.

Which Common Writ is also written two manner of wayes, neither different in substance, quantitie, nor qualitie, but onelie in speedinesse. First, it keepeth an indifferent mids: that is, neyther too speedie, nor to slow: which is the best way, in respect of the legeablenesse of it selfe, beeing written: but worst, in regarde of its unreadinessse.

readinesse and slownesse to write.

Secondlie, it is currentlie written, and therefore is somewhat worle, in respect of the uncomlinelle, and raggednesse, when it is done: seeing it is but composed of all the abjectes, or derivatiue letters, of the Alphabet, which bee farre descended, and derived, from their originall proportion: (which originall is the whole Letters of the second sorte of Set hand) but yet it is so much the better, by how much it is more easie in doing: and therefore it is chosen, and singled out, as a forme most needfull in hastic busynesses.

And whereas it may bee thought, that sundrie of the Current letters belonging hereunto, be too slowlie, or wel writte: that is, not so Current-like as neede or haste doeth require, I doe so of set purpose, because no Man needeth to be directed by Preceptes, nor shewed by Examples, to write or forme letters evill, (that is, after a wrong manner) but rather both aye to be directed and shewed how to write well: howsoever the most part bee desirous both to learne themselues, and to bee expedie in their effaires by others, with the easiest and speediest sorte of Writ. And therefore, though I present in the Alphabet the Patterne of Current letters, somewhat nearer the right shape, than they commonlie use to bee found in Current writ; yet eyther the inclination of the doer, expedition of the

the adoes, or both, will pervert and corrupt them so, that they will bee both soone enough, and farre enough, yea, too farre different therefrom uncommanded: because all commandementes bee rather contrarie than agreeable unto Mans disposition: as it is farre more difficulte to rowle a Channon Bullet up to the toppe of a Mountaine, than from thence unto the foote thereof.

Last, Common writ is found likewise to be of two sortes: the one called Open Minum, and the other Close: both written either indifferent, (that is, neyther too speedie, nor too slow) or Current, at the will and option of the Writer: but the last thereof is best Current, because it is more speedie in urgent effaires than the first. And though it bee impossible to make the speedier sortes eyther so legeable or comelic as the rest, yet each one of them ought to bee respected for its peculiar propertie, to wit, celeritie; because neyther time nor place will serue aye to write alike well, nor yet would it bee necessarie, though continuall occasion might bee had of both these circumstances.

NOTA.

There is also another Minum Letter, contrarie unto this, to wit, open aboue, (like the third singl e u in the Alphabet) and close under: but it is neyther so seemlie nor speedie as the former.

The

*The Divisions, or Denominations, of all the
Letters of the Alphabet, declaring the
severall sorts thereof by their names.*

The Letters of this Character are divided
two manner of wayes, some thereof bee
Capitals, and some not: the Capitall letters
bee of two sortes, the one called Beginning Ca-
pitals, because they are commonlie used at the
beginning of Bookes and Evidences, whereof
in this Alphabet there is but one; to wit, the first
Capitall *A*, placed heere not for it selfe abso-
lutelie, but in name and behalfe of all beginning
Capitals of the whole remnant Letters of the
Alphabet: as also in place of whatsoever plaine
or curious sort of beginning Capitals can just-
lie belong unto this Character.

And although I haue spent (yea, rather
misspent) much precious time, not onelie upon
olde Capitall letters, both curioslie made, and
filled up, with Portraites, and all sortes of small
Draughtes; but upon painting and inventing
of new Capitall Letters, diverse formes of cu-
rious Writ and Compartementes: likewise,
in writing of Testificates, with Golde, Silver,
diverse coloures of Inke, and sortes of Writ; and
both of Great Evidences and Small, belonging
unto Clerkeship and Notarie, with one fayre
and legible Hand: as also in writing often-
times

times both of Compts of great Revenewes, and of extraordinarie small and compact writ, (to the great prejudice now of my sight, as in containing of the LORDES PRAYER at length in lesse boundes than the scale of an Hairing) and manie other such needelesse curiosities: yet notwithstanding, (to my simple judgement) plaine Capitals swifthe done, and ordinarie, or easie writing, and drawing; bee as much more commendable, as they are more readie than all these: even as futes of gorgeous apparell, imbrodered, paſſemented, and decored, be often-times so much uncomelier, than fine plaine cloathing, as they are costlier. But indeede either in rare employments at ordinarie times, or in ordinarie employments at extraordinarie occasions, any that haue inclination, and correspondent gifts to exercise themſelues thereanent, ſhall haue my consent; yet not absolutelie, but conditionallie, that they protract not ſo much time as I haue done in ſo doing, though they haue never ſo much allotted unto them for that effect; for I know (by doletull experience, I meane, by neglecting of better exercises and other learning) that thofe conceates are oftentimes more deceiueable, than profitable: and doubtleſſe the travels thereof would bee infinite, were not the doers are finite; and for a finite person, to enterpryſe anie infinite la-
bour, except the prayſing of G O D, and turmoyle
him

himselfe therewith excessiuelie, and tediouslie, and then for little use, is (as testifieth the most wise, mightie, and experimented King that ever was, except our gracious Saviour) nothing else, but vanitie, and vexation of sprite.

The other sort of Capitall letters, are called middle Capitals, because they are frequentlie written within lines of writ alreadie begun, and that at the beginning of sentences and proper names; which be ofter different from the former sort, in quantitie and situation, than in qualitie and proportion: whereof in this Alphabet there be 3. to wit, the remnant Capitall sorts of *A*; which bee not placed heere for themselves onely, but both as so manie Attourneys for the whole middle Capitals of all the remnant letters of the Alphabet; and for all plaine and curious sorts of middle Capitals, (of whatsoever proportion) which can anywise pertaine unto this Character.

These which bee not Capitals, are called Single and Double letters, (which stand in order immeadiatlie after the Capitals throughout all the Alphabet to the ende) being 143. who list to number them.

Of the which there bee 121. Single letters, easie to bee knowne: and 22. Double, ~~45~~ wit, The 4. *c* in the Alphabet; (for henceforth I must needs speake of them all according to their names and order, and not any more, by

demonstration of their forme, but directing by other letters to the Alphabet where they are) 5. 6. 8. 9. *e*, 4. *f*, 4. *s*, 4. *t*, 4. *m*, 4. *n*, 4. *o*, 4. *p*, 5. *f*, 4. *t*, and all the 7. sorts of *w*.

As for the dividing of letters in vowels and consonants, and the subdividing thereof, I insist not therein; because these divisions doe belong more to the nature of letters, than to their proportion: and therefore they are plainly enough divided in the Latine Grammer. Only heere, for knowing of them by their proportion, I will distinguish the vowell sortes of *i*, and *u*, from the consonant sortes thereof, in this manner; to wit, the 1, 2, and 5 sortes of *i*, be vowels: the 3 sort of *j*, is a consonant: the 4 sort of *ii*, is a double vowel, or two conjunct vowels: and the 5 *ji*, is both a consonant and a vowel, conjoyned in one. Likewise the 1, 2, 3, and 5 single sortes of *u*, be vowels: & the first *uu*, is 2 vowels conjoyned: and the 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 sortes of *v*, be consonantes; whereof 5 be single, and 6 double.

The which single and double sortes of letters, before specified, bee first compared, or described conjunctlie, (for the Rules cause) and then the double sortes severallie: both following immediatlie in order.

The Comparations, or Descriptions, of Single and Double Letters coniunctlie, demonstratiing and making each one equall with another of the owne kinde: and that by describing how many haue bodies, heads, and tayles; and how manie want them.

First, of this Character there bee 115 Letters, which haue bodies, or just middles, filling the rowme all compleatlie alike, up and downe, betwixt the 2 scores: that is, neither going aboue, nor comming under them: and these bee, all the

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 sorts of - - - a, | & 4 - - - - g, |
| 3 - - - - - b, | the 1, 2, 3, 4, - b, |
| 5 - - - - - c, | 1, 2, 4, & 6 i, |
| 4 - - - - - d, | all 5 - - - - k, |
| 10 - - - - - e, | 5 - - - - m, |
| 5 - - - - - n, | & 5 short - s, |
| 5 - - - - - o, | the 1, 2, 3, & 4 - t, |
| 5 - - - - - p, | all 16 - - - - s, |
| 5 - - - - - q, | & 4 - - - x, |
| 10 - - - - - r, | the 2, 3, 4, & 5 y, |
| and all the 4 sortes of z: | |

Except the bodie of the first *k*, which is irregular, because it goeth somewhat aboue the high score.

And 28 want bodies, or just middles, whereby to know, and prooue, the lineall justnesse or equalitie of anie of themselves, or other letters, both before and behinde them, as they occurre in anie worde; to wit, all the 7 sortes of *f*, the 5, 6, 7, 8 *b*, 3 and 5 *i*, all 5 *l*, and 6 long *s*, the 5, 6 *t*, 6 and 7 *y*: because they fill not up the rowme betwixt the 2 scores, for lacke of Beginning and Finishing partes, to come eyther justlie alonges upon them, or crosse-wayes betwixt them, or yet close inwardes on anie of them; and that for accomplishment of a bodie to euerie one of themselves, as each one of the rest hath, (saue such as bee altogether bodies, that is, wanting heads and tayles:) accomplishment (I say) because each one of them hath some beginning of a bodie alreadie, howbeit but a plaine stalke, as the second and last sortes of long *s*: and much more are bodies begun in them which haue uncompleted, or unclo'ed workes on one of the squares, joyned sometimes to their fore-side and sometimes to their backe-side: which I will endevour to make cleare, by distinguishing of them particularlie, and that after 4 manner of wayes: first, some of them haue onely one parte comming justlie endlonges upon one of the scores, (meaning, so farre

farre as the boundes of each one of them reache, and these bee 12, to wit, the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 f: 2, 3, 4, 1: 5, 6, t: 6 and 7 y. Secondlie, some haue slenting partes, upon one of the squares, and sometimes upon both: but not closing, or concluding constantlie, upon anie of them, as these 9, the 6 f, 5, 6, 7, 8 b, 3 i, 1, 5 l, and 4 long f. Thirdlie, some haue no parte at all upon anie of the squares, but beginning partes, or plaine even downe stalkes, comming croisse-wayes thorow them, as these 6, the 7 f, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 long f. And fourthlie, there is onlie one in question, which partlie hath, and partlie wanteth a bodie, which is the 5 ji: for when the latter parte thereof is severed from the former parte, (as it useth oft to bee) the latter part remaineth onlie a complete bodie; because it filleth up the rowme just betwixt the two scores, and goeth not over: but the former parte, neyther when it is conjoyned with the latter parte, nor separated therefrom, can bee esteemed eyther to bee a bodie of it selfe, or to haue one: for albeit it haue the beginning of a bodie on the high square, yet it hath neyther progresse endlonges, nor conclusion on the low square, but comineth croisse-waves under the same. Likewise, by this narrow Calculation, these 4, the 1, 2, 3, 4, b, cannot well bee sayde to haue complete bodies, because they haue neyther progresse nor conclusion on the lowe

square: and therefore, it had not bene amisse, but a matter indifferent, though they had beeene counted amongst the number of these which want bodies, as well as the 5 i.

Secondlie, 49 haue heads, or high partes, going aboue the high score, but not all alike high, to wit, all the

3 sortes of - - b, the 1, 2, 3, & 4, b,
 4 - - - - d, all 5 - - - k,
 and 7 - - - f, and 5 - - - l,
 the 5 - - - r, all 6 - - - t,
 all 6 long - s, the 6, 7, 8, single u,
 the 5 short - s, 3, 4, 5, and 7 w,

And 94 want heads, which bee, all the

4 sortes of - a, the 5, 6, 7, & 8 b,
 5 - - - - c, all 6 - - - i,
 10 - - - e, 5 - - - m,
 and 4 - - - g, 5 - - - n,
 5 - - - o, 1, 2, 3, 4, short s,
 5 - - - p, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, singl u,
 and 4 - - - q, 1, 2, & 6, double w,
 the remnant 9 - r, all 4 - - - x,

7 - - - y, and 4 - - - z,

But of these there bee 16, wherof so much as is aboue the high square of each one, is esteemed as a pendicle to the former sorte, which haue heads: because it beeing so fashioned, and situated, the same is not unlike thereunto: and these bee, the 4 a: 3, 4, c: 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, e: 5, 6, 7, 8, b: 3, 4, q: 4, and 8, r: for there is somewhat of each one of them aboue the high square: and yet the same cannot justlie bee called an head, nor anie constant parte or parcell of a letter: but some of them bee long and small downe-comminges, slenting towardes the left hand; which may bee called Introductions to the beginninges, or off-comminges, of these letters whereunto they appertaine, or wherein they be used; though done in the casting thereof, with one, and the same stroke: as such partes of these 5 letters, the 4 a: 3, 4 c: 3 and 4 q. Some bee short, and must needs cloze narrowlie in the casting: as such partes of these 6, the 7, 8, 9 e: 5, 7, and 8 b. And some bee indifferent, and unconstant: indifferent, eyther short or long, as thou pleaseſt: and unconstant, eyther made or left unmade, as thou thinkeſt expedient: which may bee named Conclusions, at the finishing of these letters, wherein they bee used; though done in the casting, with one, and

the sametravell: as such partes of these 5, the 4, 10 e: 6 b: 4 and 8 r.

And thirdlie, 48 haue tayles, feete, or low partes, comming beneath the lowe square, although not all alike low: and these bee, all the

7 sortes of - - f, 4 - - - - q,
and 4 - - - g, 6 long - - f,
the 4,5,6,7,8,b, 4 - - - x,
3 and 5 - - i, 7 - - - y,
all 5 - - - p, and 4 - - z,

And 95 want tayles: and these bee, all the

4 sortes of - a, and 10 - - e,
3 - - - b, the 1,2,3, - - b,
5 - - - c, 1,2,4, and 6 i,
4 - - - d, all 5 - - k,

5 - - - l, 10 - - - r,
5 - - - m, 5 short - s,
5 - - - n, 6 - - - t,
5 - - - o, 9 single - u,
and 7 - - - w.

But of these there bee 21, whereof so much as is under the low square of each one, is esteemed

med as a pendicle to the former sort which haue tailes; because that part of each one is not unlike thereunto, when the letter is so shapen and bounded: and these letters be, the 3 *b*, 5 *c*, 4 *d*, 7, 8, 9, *e*, 1, 2, 3, *b*, 2 *i*, 4 *k*, 3, 5, *l*, 2, 3, *m*, 2 *n*, 2 *r*, 2, 8, *single u*, 4, and 7 *double w*: for there bee somewhat of each one of them under the low score, and yet the same cannot justlie bee called a tayle, nor any constant part of a letter; but some of them are long and small upgoings, slenting to the right hand, which may bee also named Introductions to the off-coming, or casting of such letters; both when they are casten of the like length as they bee in the same letters severallie in Alphabet, and at the beginniges of words, when these letters whereunto they appertaine occurre before other letters: which are rather made accidentlie and voluntarilie, for garnishing or decoring of writ, than constantlie or of necessitie to be portions of letters. (I meane so much thereof as be under the low sco) In like manner, they serue as Bridges or passages of the Pen betwixt letters, both for greater speedinesse in writing, and more seemelie conjoyning of letters written; and that when they are casten short, that is, limited betwixt the 2 scores onlie: as within worde^e, and chiefly in these 3 *i*, the 3 *b*, 5 *c*, 7 *e*, 2 *i*, 4 *k*, 5 *l*, 2 *m*, 2 *n*, 2 *r*, 8 *single u*, 4, and 7 *double w*. Some be changeable conclusions of letters, since they

are sometimes freely made, and sometimes pur-
posely left unmade, at the finishing of letters;
and these be used in two letters, the *4d*, and *3l*.
Some be changeable, and subject to vicissitude,
in respect of their occurrence, & unchangeable
in regard of their fashion: by their occurrence,
sometimes themselues, and sometimes other
Diphthongs for them, will happen to be writ-
ten in such wordes as require them: and by
their fashion, when the Diphthongs wherein
they bee used are composed of the *7e*, they
keepe this shape onlie; and these Diphthongs
be two, the *8*, and *9e*. And last, the like partes
of these *4*, the *1*, *2*, *3*, *b*, and *3m*; of the which,
the *1*, and *3*, haue small downe-commings slen-
ting to the left hand, wherewith they bee con-
cluded under the low square, for the viver per-
ceiving and better descerning of each one of
them from anie of the sortes of *b*: for other-
wise there would bee little difference; howso-
ever manie, who holde themselues Skilfull
Writers, use the same: which I thinke more
pertinent in the Romane sortes of such letters,
than in these of this Character. To come to
the second, so much thereof as is under the low
square, both slengeth downe to the left hand,
and compasseth up to the right hand. And the
fourth, hath a compassed stroke, so much wher-
of as is under the low square, may eyther bee
made

made, or left unmade, (at the beginning) as
best pleaseth thee.

*The Comparations, or Descriptions, of Double Let-
ters severallie: shewing how they are made
Double, and united.*

Some Double Letters of the former Alpha-
bet bee separable, and some unseparable: the
separable bee 16 in number; to wit, the 4 c,
5, 6, 8, 9 e, 4 f, 4, 5 i, 4 l, 4 m, 4 n,
4 o, 4 p, 5 long f, 4 t, and the 1 double
uu: and the inseparable, be 6; to wit, the z,
3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 double w. The separable are
likewise of 2 sortes: some whereof are natural,
or plaine; and other some artificiall, or curious:
(artificiall, I say, in respect of their names or
sound, as the same is pronounced in syllabica-
tion: for according to their externall fashion,
they are more naturallie, at the least more close-
lie doubled, and conjoyned, than the other
sort.) Naturall, or plaine, because they are dou-
bled, and united, with letters of one name, in
the most common and easie manner: and arti-
ficiall, or curious, since they are composed of
letters having 2 names, after a rare, compact,
and obscure manner; notwithstanding their
pronunciation bee of one at length. These that
bee naturallie double, are 1 z, to wit, the 4 c,
4 f, 4, 5 i, 4 l, 4 m, 4 n, 4 o, 4 p, 5 f,
4 t,

4 *t*, and the 1 *uu*. And these which bee artificiallie double bee 4. the 5, 6, 8 and 9 *e*; the composition whereof consisteth most constantlie of these 2 sortes of one letter, the 2 and 7 *e*: the first whereof beeing composed with the 2 *a* (as *a*, according to the fashion of the 5 *e* in the Alphabet) hath nothing changed in the composition, but the two letters united, the last part of the first, and the first part of the last, beeing set aboue others. Next, with the 2 *o*, as *æ*; and that by joyning of them likewise together. The last of the two sortes of *e*, is also componed with the seconde *e*, and that two wayes (as, beholde the 8 and 9 *e* in the Alphabet) each one whereof, signifying no lesse in Current Writ, than the former sorte of Diphthong 5 *e*, doeth in Set and Common: yet the letter *a*, is not exprest in anie of the *n*, but understood in both for speeds cause; and these two sortes of conclusions, (like tailes) which they have, are put in place of the *a*; for making some difference betwixt them, and the other sortes: to wit, the remenant sortes of vowell *e*: for they beeing thus formed, are much speedier to write; because each one of them is casten with one stroke, than being composed at length with the *a*, since then there must needes bee two.

And thus farre concerning the Variations, or Degressions; Divisions, or Denominations; and

and Comparisons, or Descriptions, of all the Letters comprehended in the former Alphabet: which serve both for a Table Charactricall, by representing of the diversitie of most usmall Characters; and Syllabicall, by sounding of the Syllables comprehended in the names, or varietie of Letters.

THE ENTRIE WHICH LEA-
DETH TO P E R F E C T I O N ,
I N T H E A R T E O F
Fayre VVriting

Made open; and the Keyes there-
of delivered.

THIS A R T E hath manie Keyes to open the same, whereof this former Alphabet is not one of the least; but if eyther thou want the Key of the Entrie, within the which the great Key is kept, (which Entrie, and Key thereof, is this present Article, and the use of the same) or yet receiues it, and not use the other Key, I meane the chiefe Key, which thou wilt finde there; but suffer it to royst, or lose its clearnesse; wherein can it bee steadable unto thee? For albeit thou haue never so great Summes of Money, costlie Apparell, daintie Cheare, and wholesome Medicines, yet

yet if thou applie them not unto thy selfe, to serue thee in thy necessities, each one for its owne use: to wit, for payng of thy Debtes, co-
vering of thy Nakednelle, quenching of thine Hunger, and curing of thy Disease; what can all these avayle thee? But albeit I feare the worst, yet I hope the best: and upon which hope, to wit, that thou wilt endevour for thine owne weale, to peruse this Worke, I intende to convoy, at the least direct thee thorow all the secret Cabinets thereof; and deliver to thee the Key of the Entric thereunto, whereby (if thou wilt consider the forme, and remember the secret passages, and turninges of the Locke) thou mayest not onelie open them all, and get entresse for thy selfe, aye when thou pleaseſt, but cast up the Yate so wide to the Walles, that even Children may easilie follow thee in thereat; and walke peaceable, in a patent Way, leading to the farthest or highest part of the Arte, without attending, payng, or praying anie Ia-
nitour to receive thee, or Guide to conduct thee. Which Chiefe or Great Key, is the reading of this Booke, whereby (if thou bee anie wayes capable, diligent, and attentiu) thou mayest know, in short space, how to write fayre and perfectlie: even as well as anie who hath some reasonable beginning of learning, may discover and open up anie Arte whatsoever, with the Key of Reading, perceiue what hid-
den

den Furniture is within that misterie, by diligent viewing, conceiue the secrecie thereof by due consideration, and then put all to its owne right use, by practising thereof, both for the particular weale of himselfe, and the common weale of others. Thus thou both having the Keyes in thine owne custodie, and the way made so patent, straight, and direct, to the airth and place where thou wouldest bee, that if thou haue anie solide judgement, in-sight of naturall knowledge, or gift of learning, thou needest not to goe wrong: for thou wilt not onelie see everie chiefe meethe and token in its owne place, as was fore-tolde thee in the beginning of this thy Journey; but likewise such particular refreshmentes, or varietie of new sightes, in thy progreise, as thou goest from one degree or perfection, to another; that if thou irke, or growe wearie in anie part of the way, it will bee as much in thine owne default, as mine.



THE

THE TRANSITION, OR

THROVGH-GOING,

Which leadeth to Perfection, in the Arte of
Fayre Writing, made patent: Declaring the
 Gradation how, Meanes whereby,
 and Space howe soone it may
 bee attainea unto.



PERFECTION IN FAIRE WRITING, is neither so common nor easie, as each one esteemeth it to be; but so high a thing as few can climbe unto, without many steppes and degrees: & the way thereunto is so obscure, that as few knoweth it well; because of the rarenesse of right Guiders: indeed some may well enter on the most fated partes thereof, sometimes by guelle, thorow often resorting. But now, I shall doe good will (so farre as it shal please GOD to assist me) to strike out a faire entrie in the midedst, and make it so patent and easie, that anie may goe thorow at the nearest; and walke in all the partes thereof, who haue any errande, whether they haue companie, or not.

First,

First, I (as it pleaseth G O D, insteade of a more skilfull foundator) haue founded this worke on such two strong Pillars, bounde together with a Pende in the middest; as I hope, shall stand firmlie and constantlie up, against all windie and stormie tempest of disputation whatsoever; and these be Knowledge and Practise, joyned together with forcible Reason: which bee the whole scope and meaning of the premisses; the first whereof is strong, the second stronger, and the third, both strongest and best (of its owne nature, though not for the use) for the first and second would be soone overthrownen and demolished, were not the third holdeth stronglie out against the dint of the blast; and guardeth them mightily with each kinde of defence, against everie sort of assault; that is, by rendering a relevant reason, wherefore everie letter, sillable, word, line or article of faire and perfect writing, is written that way; rather as the contrary way. But manie, yea even instructors, doe content themselves with practise alone, which is but the naked mids, because it wanteth the clothing of understanding and reason on both the sides; for it will endure little storme, when the Winter of thyall shal come: and so, each one of those is not unliketo a man beside himselfe, who walketh naked, and is like to die of colde; because hee is destitute of knowledge and reason, to use

meanes for clothing and defending of his body: to the which two therefore, as well as the third, I will haue a speciall regarde; let others Practise by-gueste, or misregarde Knowledge and Reason as they please.

And albeit this Arte be not altogether Theroricall, or contemplatiue, projectiue or of necessitie; yet Theorie or contemplation, is verie expedient for the easier following, or better practising thereof: as by exemple, though *Fancie Writing*, and *Ornate Laine*, may be both taught and learned, the one, without the speculatiue Knowledge and Practise of this Booke, and the other without the contemplatiue Knowledge and use of a Grammar; yet, it cannot bee denied, but the usage of both these meanes, is verie requisite for both these endes. Also, though a man may goe a faire Journey by land on foote; yet wee will all conesse, that an Horse is verie expedient to refresh him, both when hee fainteth in the way, and to bring him the sooner to his Journeys ende.

And next, there bee two chiese Steppes for Degrees, (though verie wyde) to climbe up to Perfection: with this Booke, and without it; with it, there bee diverse inferiour Degrees, and narrow Steppes, which may all bee comprised in two; the one, by reading it, to get the former knowledge: and the other, by practizing it, (and sometimes Exemplares written conforme) to get the former Practise: and so consequentlie of both will proceede the former Reason, as a most naturall and kindlie Birth. Which may be

all

all accomplished by anie betwixt the age of 40 and 14, who bee desirous and circumspect; and that in a moneth space, they using diligence the most part of each day: yet I seclude none, of whatsoever age or giftes, with longer space: for aye the longer the better, and they so much the perfecter, except they bee sloathfull in the midst. And thereafter, without this Booke two wayes: with a Copie of unlegeable Writ, and without it: with it, to extract rightlie anie matter whatsoever, or howsoever written by another: but keeping preciselie thine own shape of Letter which thou learnest heereby: that is, not to followe another anie further than it agreeth with thine owne, (though it should seeme never so pleasant) if so bee that thine agree with thine owne Exemplare. And without a Copie, to write anie needfull thing thou pleaseft, from off thine owne minde, neyther matter nor letter beeing before thee: and so foorth, studying to weare, piece and piece, from all these meanes, by order afore-saide, and by degrees heere-after mentioned.

And although thou bee perfect, having thus proceeded, yet cease not, but exercise thy selfe sometimes, although it were onelie to keepe thine hand in right use of Practise: for thou having once attained unto anie measure of Perfection, (in how short or long space soever) the ofter reading, and longer practising of this Booke thereafter, will make thee to haue both the more delight,

and the greater dexteritie: for the first learning of anie thing is little in comparison of farther; because it but paseth the way a little to a farther ingresse therein, that the steppes may bee the better knowne thereafer. But having learned, runne aboue all, and either beholding oþers, or comming that way over againe, at another time; when consideration will engender conception, conception will bring foorth knowlage, knowledge will produce practise; and knowledge and practise together will beget reason, and reason will binde and defende all these proceedings. It is hard to cause a Childe, so long as bee is learning the Latine Rudimentes, understand them aright: bee may well haue some superficiall scroofe of Skill, or habtie, (unlesse bee bee all the more docile and tractable) but when he is past almost thorow the Grammar, and heareth anie part of the Rumentes taught over againe, unto other Children, then incontinent bee beginneth to consider, conceiue, understand, practise, reason: and consequentlie, not onelie defende both his owne saynges and dōings, by right Grammaticall Rules; but likewise in his Disputations to impugne and reforme the erarane in oþers. So then, there is but meane knowlede in the way of Learning, in comparison of that which is in the ende thereof; and commonly those who haue loued it, and runne failest, in the beginning of that race, either becommeth feeble before they come to the ende, and so are forced to gue over; or if they obtaine the Prysse, they haue little more breath to doe anie more good: and so they are like hastie or untimelie Fruite, soone ripe, soone rotten.

It hath

It hath seldome beeene seene that the most pregnant Studiente, in the time of their learning, haue prooved best at exer- cises; because commonlie they bothe concerte so much of their Skill, and leane so much therunto, that few of them can take paines, after they haue passed their COURSE, which is the chiefeſt time, for that uſe: (for all is but Childrens-play before) but it hath beeene rather their Condiſciples, whome of eu- times they haue both deſpised for Povertie, and derided for Ignorance; who apprehending their owne maſſe folde defectes, haue applied themſelues wholie to ſupplie the ſame ſo much the more, by their ſerious ſtudies; and not onelie haue riſen up (as it were) from under their feete, unto greater preferment than they themſelues: but likewife, at length, haue prooved happier Inſtrumentes of G O D S Glorie, both in Church, and Common-wealth.

And as each one that runneth this firſt Race, muſt begin at the A B C, and reade all over again, before ethere bee be perfect of that which bee bath learned alreadie, or yet meete to reade farther: ſo if thou wouldest bee well grounded in this Arte, thou muſt beginne this Booke, not onelie at the Alphabete, but before the ſame, and reade, conſider, and praetife, all of new againe, after than once: or elſe all thy Proceedings will bee fundied, that is, defectiue, or not well founded: for though Fundayng, and right Founding, be not farre diſſerent in letters, yet they are farre enough diſſerent in nature. And as wee ſee a Rower in a Boate haue his Face one way, contrarie to the part where bee woulde bee, and the whole power of his Bodie ſtriving againſt the Streame or ra-

ging Flood another way: so though the streame of thy Corruptions carrie thee somewhat downewardes the wong way perforce: that is, make thee to beholde Ignorance and Sluggishnesse, as things verie plausible to Nature, and so choake the growth of Vertue in thee: yet follow not thy Looke, but turne about thy Face the contrarie way, and bende both thy Strength and Affections to land at the part where thine Errande lieth. And althoough perhaps thou bee such a one as hath all Neces-
saries of this Life, furnished unto thee by thy Parentes or Friendes, yet trust not too much to the continuance thereof: but so carefullie employ thy time, by Learning now, while as thou hast these meanes, as thou mayest liue honestlie afterwardes, when thou wantest them: for nothing heere is permanent, but subject to mutabilitie, and viciuitude: and Satan is both a Thiefe and a Lier in manie thinges, but especiallie concerning Time. And suppose thou never want meanes during thy time, there is neyther Travell nor Time lost, but well bestowed, which is spent in doing of good: for everie one is ordained of G O D to use some lawfull Calling, althoough bee haue even reasonable Substance whereon to liue: and that becauise the Minde is in a continuall Fluxe, aye mooving: not unlike unto a River which runneth uncessantlie, and therefore is set eyther upon good or evill: for wee see Rivers, when they runne, prooue both profitable and comfortable, sending forth varietie of Fishes for Mans sustenance: but when they are restrained, and stand ydle, they doe nothing but corrupt and drie up themselues, and breed uncleane Beasts, both noysome and venomous: Even

so, when a Man is well employed, in anie good use that
hee is meetest for, bee prooerth a profitable Member in
a Common-wealth: but if otherwise, bee bee additied to
ydlenesse, bee not onelie mispendeth precious Time, cor-
rupteth and wasteth himselfe, by unnescessarie cogita-
tions; but often times engendereth, and bringeth foorth,
evill Actions, to the great prejudice both of himselfe,
and others. And so I am perswaded, that that Man spen-
deth with better Conscience, who lawfullie winneth that
which bee spendeth, though it bee never so litle; than bee
that liveth by l'surie: except in olde Age, and searulie
then: for, as Salomon sayeth, Better is a little with
righteousnesse, than great Revenewes with-
out equitie. Therefore, cast thine Eyes aside, and
beholde the Creatures of G O D: doe not the verie
Birdes hunger their young ones, not for hatred, but even
to teach them for to provide for themselves, as soone as
they haue anie Feathers, wherewith they may flie: So
ought thy Provisers to teach thee: or, if they eyther
bee deficient, or negligent, thou oughtest to take holde on
Wisedome thy selfe: at the least, learne that easie lesson
at these Creatures, which doe want the Reason, that
thou hast: For, according to that Olde Proverbe, It is
easie swimming, so long as the Head is borne
aboue. And if other wayes, thou haue Parentes, who
would fayne helpe thee, and may not, thou oughtest not
to despise them, but art bound to loue them, and to helpe
them as thou best mayest: for Loue (in this point) is
like unto water, which will eyther runne downwardes,
if it haue anie descent, or else stand still, and putrefie in
G 4

it selfe, like unto Selfe-loue: for Loue seldom ascendeth, (I meane from Children to Parentes) except where Grace maketh it to mount aboue Nature: as Water by Conduites, or other Engines, is sometimes forced to ascende upwardes, contrarie its nature.

And finallie, didst thou ever see anie Man, who neglected Learning when as hee might haue had it, but rued the same, when hee could not get it? And though such a one haue innumerable penitent Condisciples lan-reated with him in Classe; yet both his and their repen-tance (in that point) prooveth often times too late: be-cause when the Time is too farre expired, it no wayes can bee redeemed. O then! if Childhood bee a plea-sant Spring! and Youth-hood a braue Sommer! and yet manie thinke Learning then as hevie a Croffe, as oc-curreth unto them eyther in the Harvest of their ripe Age, or in the winter of their olde Age. If thou were to live another life, besides this, which is wearing to an ende: and die another death, besides that which thou must needes suffer heere, questionlesse thou wouldest bee verie wise and warie the second time, and both doe manie things which thou leftest undone, and leaue manie things undone, which thou diddest the first time. But because thou hast but one life to spende heere, and all things depending on thy diligence and behaviour, in time of the spending thereof, thou shouldest take holde on the short time which thou hast, now while as thy Glasse runneth: and that by striving to learne, rather by seeing, than by effeying: I meane, by exemple, like a wise Man, rather than by Experience, like a Foole: For Expe-

rience is tearm'd the Schoole-Master of Fooles.

And last, if thou bee anie wayes capable and diligent, it hath pleased G O D, by the Mouth and Writinges of one, who was a learned Man, to giue thee this generall comfort, in all Learning whatsoeuer,

Nil tam difficile est, quod non solertia vincat :

That is, There is nothing so difficult, but diligence may over-come the same: Yea, though it were to transforme Ignorance into Science, or banish Ignorance foorth, and bring Science in. Endeavour, therefore, to bee diligent, and desp're not of thy giftes, thrugh they bee never so meane: for althoug'h the whole Cornes in a Countrey cannot bee gotten shorne with Kempers; yet each one, according to his habilitie, getteth his owne parte well enough cutted downe.

I returne now to the chiefe degree of Perfection, because it is moste necessarie and pertinent, and doe remit the rest to thine owne capacitie and diligence, as thou ascendest unto them: which beeing then in perusing of this Booke, after the two severall wayes afore specified, is thus prescribed.

Before thou beginne to practise, thou must for thine own weale, (though perhaps thou apprehende it not at the first) even take some delight to reade and consider the same twise over, or eyther more or leise, as thou findest thine

Engine apt and prompt to receiue the Instru-
c^tions therein without doubting: because that
is the onelie way howe to attaine to the right
understanding of the Arte: For, Exercise
maketh the Minde better to conceiue the
same by reading; and then Practise maketh the
Hand readier to performe that conception, by
Writing. But if thou preferre, or giue Practise
the first place, that is, suffer it to goe before
Knowledge, it will be so much labour in vaine:
(I meane chieflie in perusing of this Booke)
seeing no right Practise can bee, without good
Knowledge; no good Knowledge, without
right Instruction; no right Instruction, but
eyther from Aboue, or of such as G O D hath
gifted to informe and instruct Belowe: for it is
hard for anie Man to teach another rightlie to
doe anie rare worke, which hee himselfe cannot
perfectlie doe first; or to tell the right Tokens
of an obscure Way, wherein hee never walked:
and so right Instruction, maketh good Know-
ledge; good Knowledge maketh right Practise;
and good Knowledge, and right Practise toge-
ther, including Reason, goeth nearest to Per-
fection of anie thing: and the last of these can-
not bee rightlie done without the helpe of the
first, no more than the Hand can rightlie pro-
ecute anie other Action, without the ayde of
the Minde: for as the Minde first imagineth
anie thing before the Hand execute the same;
so the

so the Hand cannot rightlie doe, except the Minde first direct. (The Eyes beeing set as Spectators, obeying the one, and helping the other.) And when thou art thus prepared for Practise, and art to beginne the same, striue to followe the severall Directions contayned in these eight diets following.

I. When eyther thou enterest to learne, or having somewhat learned before, let the whole Single and Double Letters bee casten with double square, both in Alphabet, by the space of three dayes, and in lines of writ two dayes: which must needes bee justlie drawne after this Patterne, of the like distance, or eyther farther or nearer, as shall bee requisite for the quantitie of their proportion.

II. Two dayes to want the halfe of the high square, after this manner, but endevou-ring to doe as if thou hadst it.

III. Two dayes to want al the high square, except a little entrelse thereof at the beginning; and that for imprinting in thy memorie which of two thou wantest, as thus.

IV. Three dayes to want the high score altogether, and to write on the low score: but still be mindfull that it is the high square which is absent; because manie oftentimes mistake single square, and that sometimes by making the bodies of letters, halfe aboue, halfe under the same, it beeing in the middest; and sometimes under the lowe square, and so nothing aboue, saue heads of letters, as if it were the high square indeede, and not that which it is.

V. Other three dayes with halfe single square.

VI. Three dayes yet with a piece single square, both to shew where lines should begin, and how farre distant to make them.

VII. Without squares altogether, the space of sixe dayes.

And VIII. Let thy writ grow to such a reasonable speede, the space of other sixe dayes, beeing a Moneth (or thirtie dayes) in the whole, as thou mayest keepe everie letter thereof of such proportion, quantitie, and situation, as thou hast learned the dayes preceeding.

Thus

Thus much of the Transition, leading the nearest and directest way to Perfection.



THE ABRIDGEMENT OR BREVIAARIE OF THE *Arte of Fayre VVriting.*

The Prologue.



T is the precise and right Tearme now, wherat I should performe my Promise, in drawing of this Worke to a Brevitie; and that by making an Abridgement therof. Surelie it doeth neyther agree with my disposition nor intention, to repeate anie thing; yet if I applie not mine Instruction thoro wout all the Booke, and especiallie in this place, as well to the capacitie of those who can write nothing at all, as of others, who esteeme themselues perfect enough alreadie; they will comprise all the rest to little valour. For intercepting of the which light esteemation, I will heere (through G O D S Grace) accomplish that

that which I promised to doe: that thereby the one sort may be sufficiently informed, & instructed: and the other confirmed, and their Skill augmented. For I am perswaded, that whosoever readeth this Booke, will not finde it altogether so barren of good matter, (though indeede the subject be so esteemed by some) but it doeth containe many things which thou never read in anie other Booke, nor never heard taught of any other man, & so scarcely ever knew of before; or else it were but a sober invention. If I then (as Gods dispensator in this behalfe) haue set on two Tables, such varietie of Dishes that there lacketh nothing, but appetite to receiue them; and these whom I haue invited, will neither take that which I carue and offer unto them on the great Table in the Hall, nor this little Table in the Chamber; nor yet choose and take unto themselues such dainties off both as bee meetest for them, it is no pittie though they want altogether.

So immediateli is insinuated and set down, first, two lines of writ, and ten compendious Precepts, collected foorth of both the Generall and Speciall parts of this Booke, (for thy memories cause) directed thereupon: and next, a briefe Alphabet of Current single and double letters, extracted foorth of the great Alphabet: after the which followeth the Conjugations and Formations of all the letters thereof, shewing

wing so may as be both conjoyned and framed together of one fashion, though of diverse names, and beginneth and proceedeth after one manner: first ranked together, and then each one with its owne rule by it selte, declaring the true progresse of the penne therein; and that for the use of all learners, but chiefly of those who would faine learne one forme of writ suddenlie, leaving all others unto those who may spare longer time, and take greater paines.

I know, some of those who can write somewhat alreadie, will thinke it an indignitie to begin againe at the casting of letters, (I meane severallie by order of Alphabet) even as if the action or practise of all writ which ever they haue written, or will write, consisted not in the casting and framing of letters: it is never shame to doe well, (that is, anie thing that may tende to a good use) and (as I said once before) farre better late nor never: for many that can even cast Letters well, cannot cast them the right way, and each one that can cast them the right way, cannot cast them after a comely manner, I meane to beginne, follow foorth, and accomplish each one, both formallie and decentlie, from the first part thereof to the midst, and from the midst to the last: and if so be, farre lesse are they able to obserue and performe the remnant injunctions, whereof this Arte requireth observance and performance.

And

And to shun and reject the burthen of the
which, it may bee that some of them alledge
there be moe things prescribed than need requi-
reth, but (to my judgement) there is not an ydle
Precept in all this Booke: indeede, because they
cannot be all of a like weight, the greatest sort
hath the greatest necessitie in the observation;
for when anie Arte is either taught or written,
it ought to bee taught and written largelie, and
no necessarie thing purpotelie omitted; because,
in the learning and practising thereof, there wil
bee enough, yea too much neglected, that
ought to be respected. And so, when all is done
that can be done, there resteth enough to doe,
though at the first, there bee no wittull neglig-
ence: let instructors therefore striue to know
and practise all which be anie wayes needfull
and expedient, and Studentes followe onely
so manie things as be most needfull, and most
expedient.

And albeit manie letters, yea even of one
sort, bee oftentimes casten after divers wayes,
which doeth proceede of the disconformitie of
instructing, which hath bene in times past; yet
all men (with unitie of minde) will confesse
that there is no way so good as the rightest
way: and the way heere taught and demonstra-
ted, I proue to be the rightest: (let others try
or elsey as they please) because letters being
made conserme to it, not onlie getteth the
rightest

rightest proportion, casteth and joyneth best; but to cast and conjoyn are speediest, and being casten and conjoined, are most comelic and legeable: and to consequentlie, the matter contained in them so much the more intelligible.



A PEDAGOGICALL ADMONITION, OF THAT WISE
and learned Clerke, *William Lillie*, unto his Disciples.

SCalpellum, Calami, Atramentum, Charta, Libelli,
Sint semper Studiis Arma parata tuis.



The use of this Copie.

IN the Letters onelie, and not in the matter, of these two lines of Writ, (as in all others such like) are ten Observations to bee marked;

H

ked;

ked: the Limiting of Capitals, the Dimitting of Square, the Speedinelle requisite in Writing, the Fashioning, Measuring, Bounding, and Conjoyning of Single and Double Letters, the distance betwixt Letters, Wordes, and Lines, the difference of Letters, and compactnelle requisite in all Writ.



**TEN COMPENDIOVS
P R E C E P T E S,**
Directing howv to match the
C O P I E afore-written.

LIMITATION OF CAPITALS.

PLace all Beginning Capitals within, aboue, and under the double square; and all middle Capitals within, and aboue.

DIMISSION OF SQVARE.

STrive to frame and set all the Letters now, as justlie without double square, as when thou hadst it.

EXPE-

E X P E D I T I O N .

Learne speedilie, but write slowlie, till thou canst match the Copie.

P R O P O R T I O N .

Kepe the same equall middles of Letters, in Writ, which thou learneſt heereby in Alphabet.

Q U A N T I T I E .

Make the Bodie, Head, and Tayle of each Letter, equall with another of its owne sorte; in length, breadth, and widenelle.

S I T V A T I O N .

Set all the Bodies of Letters betwixt the scores, Heads aboue, and Tayles under.

C O N I V N C T I O N .

Endevour to conjoyn the most part of all Letters within Wordes, by ſeldome lifting of the penne.

H 2 D I S T .

DISTANCE.

Let almost all Letters within words, Words within lines, and Lines within Pages, bee equall distant, each one of its owne kinde from another.

DIFFERENCE.

EVerie Letter must differ somewhat from another in fashion, and haue some greatnele and smalnele: but compasid Letters indifferencie.

COMPREHENSION.

Comprehende thy Writ in little boundes, and that rather of Letters within wordes, than of Wordes with wordes, or Lines with lines, except of necessitie.

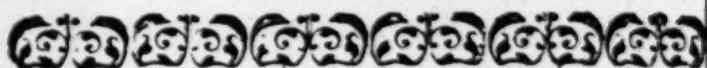
The Epilogue, or Closing up of the Partenie, and Preceptes.

IMAD E Choyse of the former two Verses, whereon these Preceptes haue resulted,

as a

as a Patterne to follow, for the letters which it containeth, and a Precept to obserue, for the matter comprehended therein; because each one of them tendeth to the well of the subiect I haue in hand: and that chiefelie for the use of those who would faine goe the nearest way to learne. A Patterne to follow (I say) for two causes: first, beca se it maketh mention of such comelic Armour as is requisite for Schollers alwayes to carrie, when they march in that Conflict betwixt Science and Ignorance, (which they thinke a Battell indeede, though it bee the moſte peaceable time that manie of them will ever haue in the worlde againe.) Next, because it serveth in ſteade of an Exemplare of Practife, to bee reſembled heere; that while as they write thereby, it may keepe them in memorie to prepare ſuch thinges as without the which they can hardlie reſemble it, or anie other. And a Precept to obſerue, I ſayde: for albeit it bee commonlie both in everie Studentes memorie, and repeated by them; yet beca ſe ſundrie of them are ſlacke, and carclleſſe in preparing of thoſe Necellaries, I take occation heere to reiterate the ſame: for nothing can bee too often commanded, that is not well obeyed.





AN ORATION,
BEFORE THE BRIEFE ALPHABET.

IF thou be one that wouldest soone learne, it is for thy cause that this Alphabet of Current Letters following, being 48 in number, as they bee diverse in sortes, are chosen and extracted foorth of the great Alphabet, and casten by degrees in this manner following: and that both for thy better consideration of them all in generall, and imitation of each one in particular. And if thou be anywayes tractable and carefull to learn, thou mayst hereby vnderstand them aswell, and follow them better, than if thou haddest scene them written by any skilfull Master Writer after the ordinarie forme: (that is, without more instruction, than they commonlie use to giue) and whereas thou mayest perhaps alledge, he would both doe & speake, that is, both write, and tell how to write; write Exemplars, and declare how to follow them: my answere is, thy alledgeance may well hold against a bare Exemplar Booke, but not against this; for such a booke may well shew thee the ende afarre off, but it concealeth the way that leadeth thereunto; and so will suffer thee to fall

into

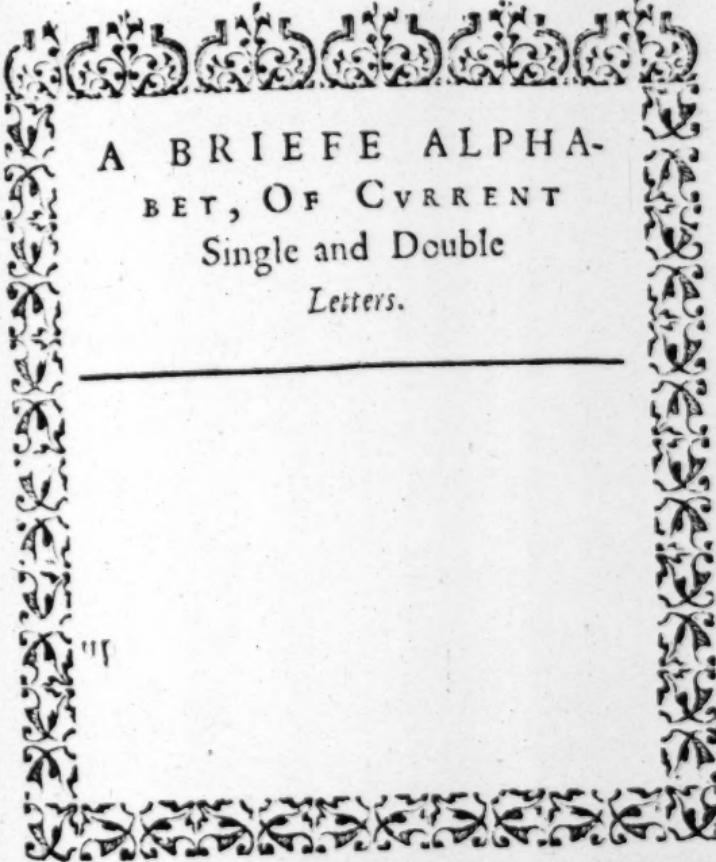
into an hundereth ditches, if thou shouldest walke therein without a guide: it sheweth thee a little indeede, what to follow, but neither the meanes whereby, nor the manner how to follow; and so is a most obscure teacher everie way: yea, and so senseles that it cannot doe so much, as signe its owne meaning: why then, is it any marvell that these bookees be for the most part to all learners un-imitable, and few the better thereof that buy them? It is not the beholding of a fayre complete Palace, that can teach a young Mason (newlie passed Apprentice) to builde, or bee Master of Worke to the like; but hee must needes either bee present at the founding of such a one, and still continue till it bee accomplished, or else haue the knowledge of some secrete preceptes of that Arte or Craft, either left unto him by some neare friende, who hath bene a cunning Master Builder (he then beeing ingenious and carefull to practise them) that must first teach him. But this Booke, as it pleaseth G O D, doeth all these things, which it cannot doe; it not only sheweth the ende, the meanes, and the way how to winne thereunto; but how to shunne all dangers in the way, and come safelie to the ende. And albeit it uttereth not by voyce, yet it so expresseth its own meaning, both by literall instruction and demonstration, that any of common judgement, who can reade, may understand the same perfectlie,

without anie interpreter : for by the private
meanes of reading , and ocular demonstration
figuratiuelie of thinges read , all carefull Stu-
dents in humane Sciences , learneth and profi-
teth asmuch , yea , I may say farre more , than by
publicke hearing . And when all is done , whe-
ther they learne by Worde or Writ , by these
bookes , or this booke , as I said of before in ano-
ther place , that as Practise availes little without
knowledge ; even so knowledge availeth as little
without practise .

Further , if thou wouldest know the viue
proportion , quantitie , and situation of the bo-
dies , heads , and tailes of letters , either beholde ,
or singlē them out as they stand in the great Al-
phabet ; and how each one is compared or de-
scribed in the Comparations or Descriptions
thereof preceeding this place : and if thou woul-
dest know howe manie stroakes may serue to
cast each one before the pen bee lifted , either
beholde them , or else abstract them foorth of
the Narration following hereafter : by which
meanes thou mayest haue sufficient information
and instruction thereanent ; and that by thine
owne diligence : for I thinke thou art not so ig-
norant , but thou knowest unto whom thou
workest , and whose errand thou goest .

This Summarie or Compende then , is not
onlie coherent with the Comparations and
Transition going before ; but is so knit , and lin-
ked

ked with the Narration, and Rules of Perfection following after, that it cannot bee separated therefrom: at the least, would not bee much steadable, if so it were. And so, if the Tranlation bee the way which leadeth unto perfection, this Compende is the ende of the way, and the verie Yate or Entrie unto Perfection it selfe.



A B R I E F F E A L P H A-
B E T, O F C V R R E N T
Single and Double
Letters.

THE CONIVGATIONS, AND

FORMATIONS OF ALL THE

Letters of this briefe Alphabet: Set

downe bo. b for themselues, and for

all other Letters of this kinde,

whether in the great Al-

phabet, or else where;

Shewing so manie as bee conjoyned and fra-
med together of one fashion, though of divers names,
and beginneth, proceedeth, and concludeth after one
manner: First ranked conjunctlie, or together, and
then severallie, that is, each one with the owne Rule
by it selfe, declaring the true progresse of the Penne
therein.

1 beginneth upon the high Square,
and commeth somewhat backe: 2, descendeth
to the low Square: 3, sleneth up againe there-
from, unto the place where it began: 4, turneth
downe againe unto the low Square: and 5, con-
cludeth with a sharpe dash, by ascending a lit-
tle

ele within the last downe-comming. So it is almost quadrant, and contayneth 5 parts, the 1 small, the 2 great; the 3 small, the 4 great, and the 5 small: howbeit they bee all casten with one strike of the penne, before it bee taken up.

beginneth and proceedeth betwixt the scores, as the same sorte of a: but when it slen-
teth up againe, it must bee brought from un-
der the lowest Square, after that it hath come
straight downe.

1 beginneth, and proceedeth betwixt
the Squares, as the for-mer sortes: 2, commeth
straight downe, under the low score, as the same
sorte of q, but concludeth evenlie backe to the
left hand: and 3, commeth eyther backe againe
within it selfe a little, for making of the last
parte great, or goeth somewhat downewardes,
as thou pleaseſt.

1 beginneth upon the high score: 2,
compasseth downe under the low square: and
3, meeteth eyther preciselie where it began, or
verie neare that parte.

1 commeth from aboue the high Square, slenting thereunto, or somewhat farther downe, as thou pleaseſt: 2, slenteth contrariwise to the low score: and 3, concludeth with a ſtoke going endlonges the high ſcore, preſelie from betwixt the fevall ſlentes.

1 commeth likewiſe fro n aboue the high Square, ſlenting both therunto, and down under, or over the ſame, to the low Square: 2, turneth ſharpe, by going a piece endlonges the ſa ne: 3, ſlenteth up againe, to the high Square: 4, downe againe thereon, (that is, covering the moſt parte of the up-going) to the low Square yet: and 5, concludeth, by aſcending a little within that downe-comming.

1 beginneth, and proceedeth betwixt the Scores, as the laſt ſorte of a; but ſlenteth up againe, from under the low Score, after that it hath come ſtraight downe: and 2, boweth a little to the right hand, in the laſt great parte thereof betwixt the Scores.

1 beginneth, and proceedeth betwixt the Squares, as this laſt q: 2, ſlenteth downe to right hand, under the low Square: and 3, goeth up, compassing cloſelie, and closing towardeſ the ſame.

1 beginneth betwixt the two Scores: 2, slenteth upwards, and compasseth narrowlie somewhat aboue the high Square: 3, commeth straight downe, a little under the lowe Score: 4, declineth backe, somewhat towardes the left hand: and 5, compasseh wide, evenlie foorth, or narrowlie upwardes, as thou thinkest expedient.

1 beginneth and proceedeth upon and aboue the Squares, as the other: 2, slenteth or declineth to the right hand, in the downe-comming: 3, compalleth to the left hand: and 4, closeth on the low Square.

1 ariseth from under the lowe Score, and slenteth up to the high Square: 2, downe againe to the lowe Square: and 3, slenteth up againe, somewhat within the downe-comming.

1 ari-

1 ariseth as the *i*, and goeth an haire breadth aboue the high Square: 2, commeth thence to the lowe Score: 3, ascendeth some-what againe: and 4, concludeth, with a strike going justlie alonges the high Square.

1 ariseth also as the *i*: 2, commeth evenlie downe againe to the lowe Score: 3, goeth narrowlie up, a little aboue the high Square, and meeteth thereon: and 4, closeth, while as it goeth thorow, endlonges the high Score.

and 1 beginneth, and proceedeth, in like manner as the *i*: and 2, each one hath the same doubled, and conjoyned together; excepting so farre as one Introduction, or to-comming, serveth both the partes of each one of them. But there is a marke set over thelast, for the better detcearning thereof from the first, not unlike this Printed sorte of *v*, which is chiefelie used when there is moe Minum Letters in that Syllable.

hath the foresayde *i* tripled, and con-
joyned in the same manner.

s begin-



1 beginneth eyther a little aboue the high Score, or under the low Score, and goeth up thereunto, as thou pleaseſt: 2, compaſſeth up, and commeth ſtraight downe to the lowe Score: and 3, concludeth eyther in going endlonges the ſame a little, or ſlenting ſomewhat up, as thou thinkeſt haſtief, and beſt.

1 beginneth aboue the high Score, compaſſeth up, and commeth ſtraight downe to the low Score, as the 1; but whereaſ the one goeth a little endlonges the ſame there, or aſcendeth ſomewhat from thence, the tayle of the other commeth as farre under the low Score, as the head thereof went aboue the high Score.

1 beginneth, and proceedeth, in the ſame manner: and 2, concludeth with a ſtrike thorow it, on, or endlonges the high Square.

1 beginneth, and proceedeth, in the ſame manner, till it come to the low Score: 2, it goeth ſomewhat endlonges the ſame: 3, goeth therefrom to the high Score: and 4, cloſeth in thereon, to the foreſide of the ſtalke.

1, beginneth, and proceedeth, in the same manner yet, till it come to the low square: 2, returneth therefrom up within the stalke againe to the high score: and 3, maketh halfe a compasse, concluding under the low score.

1, beginneth and proceedeth in the same forme, till it come to the low square: 2, sleneth up therefrom to the high score: 3, compasseth downe narrowly to the midst betwixt the squares: and 4, either closeth in to the last part, or commeth thorow both the partes, before it conclude even foorth.

, beginneth and proceedeth as the *b*, till it come to the closing on the high score; then within the close part or bodie thereof, is only added a conclusion not unlike unto the *zr* in the great Alphabet, or the *ir* in the small: (secluding the tocomming or entrance thereof which commeth from under the low square) but the bodie of this letter must bee somewhat wider or higher, than the bodie of the *b*, that is, a little aboue the high square, for the better receiving of this augmentation within the same without blotting; and that only when it is hastlie written: also, in casting thereof, thou must spende little of the widenesse in the first part of the turning within, and leaue most to the last, for feare of maculation.

1 beginneth

, beginneth and proceedeth as the *l*, when the *l* concludeth in ascending a little; and then the remnant thereof proceedeth and endeth as the *b*: but both the partes of the head thereof, to bee somewhat lower than the heads of any of these two Exemplar letters.

1, compasseth from the high square
to the low; and 2, compasseth upwards againe,
and concludeth where it began.

1, beginneth and proceedeth betwixe
the scores in the same manner, and 2, conclud-
eth in flenting aboue the high square towards
the left hand.

1, beginneth and proceedeth in the same forme also, both betwixt and aboue the scores; but compasseth or turneth backe againe; and 2, concludeth (on the high square) where it began.

, beginneth and proceedeth in the same manner yet; but concludeth with a cro-

I kcd

ked dash under the low square towards the left hand.

1, beginneth on the high score, and slenteth towards the right hand to the low score: and 2, compasseth up againe in closing or meeting where it began.

1, beginneth and proceedeth in the like manner betwixt the squares; 2, commeth straight downe under the low square: and 3, slenteth upwards againe towards the same.

1, beginneth and proceedeth in the same forme; but hath a faire compasse under the low square, either evenlie foorth, or upwards, as best pleaseth thee.

1, beginneth with the like slent from the high score to the low; and 2, goeth somtime up within the same, to the high score, and sometime it requireth to haue the pen lifted, and set there againe, that it may come thence to the low score: and 3, compasseth under the same like unto the taile of the last letter.

1 begin-

1, beginneth upon the high square:
2, sometimes commeth straight downe under
the low square: 3, goeth endlongs thorow
hereon in making of halfe a compasse closing
on the high square: and 4, oftentimes the
vwhole bodie is made betwixt the Scores, be-
fore the stalke come under them. But the last
vway is not so sure as the first: for the Letter
beeing speedilie so vritten, vwill appeare both
like the first *r*, and second *p*, of this Alpha-
bet, verie often: and so make that vvorde to be
doubtfull, till the Sentence resolute the same.

1 ariseth from under the lowe Square:
2, slienteth up to the high Square: 3, goeth endlongs the same: 4, slienteth downe a little to
the left hand, more than mid-way betwixt the
Scores: 5, goeth up a little within that downe-
comming, and commeth with a contrarie slient,

I 2

sowards

towardeſ the right hand, to the lowe Square: and 6, ſlenteth up vwithin the ſame halfe vway to the high Score. So it is just quadrant, and conſiſteth of five partes, as the firſt a of this Alphabet.

, beginneth, and proceedeth, under and betwixt the Squares in the ſame manner, ſauſe onelie the one concludeth by ascending a little from the high Score, and the other, commeth downe under the ſame, and endeth vwith an open compaſſe; eyther evenlie foorth, or ſomewhaſt ascending, as thou pleafeſt.

1, beginneth on the high Score, in going a little endlonges the ſame: 2, deſcendeth thence to the lowe Score: 3, goeth ſome-what wide up againe: and 4, concludeth by going a little endlonges the ſame.

1, beginneth, and proceedeth, as the other, untill it come to the low Score: 2. ascen-
deth within the downe-comming, and returneth, and cloſeth, in the midſt, betwixt the Squares: and thirdlie, concludeth, by going ſome-

somewhat alonges the low Square. The third of these partes may bee the seconde, or the second the third, which thou thinkest best.

and 1, beginne, proceede, and conclude, as the two former sortes of them, in this Alphabet : but these heere, are open compassed aboue the high Square, whereas the other two are close compassed.

2, beginneth on the high Square, and compasseth towardes the left hand, to the low Square: 2, goeth thorowe where it began, and slenteth towardes the right hande, somewhat aboue the high Square: and thirddlie, cludeth somewhat towardes the left hand, by setting of the Penne sadlie downe.

1, descendeth from above the high Square, to the low: and 2, hath a strike going thorow upon, or endlonges, the high Square.

1, descendeth, in the same manner: 2, commeth under the low Square: 3, it hath a strike, joyned unto that part thereof where it began, which boweth foorthwardes a little.

1, beginneth, and proceedeth, above, betwixt, and under the Scores, as the other f: 2, is made somewhat higher, and commeth downe, compassing to the high Square; and that inwardes, eyther to, or thorowe, the stalke thereof, as thou shalt thinke moste expedient: and 3, goeth directlie foorth a little, and concludeth downewardes, eyther to, or somewhat under, the low Square.

1, beninneth and proceedeth aboue, betwixt, and under the Squares, in the preceeding manner; but ariseth somewhat higher than at the beginning: 2, commeth even down narrowlie to the high Score; 3, slenteth and groweth to some wideneise under the same towardes the right hand: and 4, concludeth with a slent contrarie to the former, that is, towards the left hand,

1, aris-

1, ariseth from under the low Score, and mounteth aboue the high Score, to the right hand; 2, slenteth downe to the low Score, towards the same hand: and 3, closeth on, or betwixt the Scores, as the *b*.

1, ariseth and mounteth in that same forme; 2, commeth straight downe to the low Score: 3, goeth up againe justy as high as of before; 4, commeth straight downe againe: and 5, concludeth as the former.

1, beginneth at the high Square; 2, goeth a little endlongs thereon: 3, slenteth towards the left hand, some farther downe to the low Square: and 4, compasseth upwards under the same.

1, beginneth, proceedeth, and concludeth as the other; but compasseth twice under the

the low Square: the first whereof, as that part of the former letter, but the last contrarie thereto.

Here endeth the Abridge-
ment.



AN NARRATION,

*Demonstrating so manie stroakes
as may serue in the casting of each
Single and Double Letter of the great Alpha-
bet, vvitout taking up of the Penne from
the Paper, Except Inke fayle therein,
before the Letter be completed.*



In casting of each one of the Single and Double Letters, of the great Alphabet, with so many strikes (one or moe) as may suffice the same, without lifting of the pen; thou must take heed to the right calculation thereof, and reckon them in this manner: to wit, thou must compt aye the first down-setting of the pen, till it bee once taken up, and the

the same up-taking, for the first strike; the second setting, and second up-taking, for the second strike; and the third setting, and third up-taking, for the third strike: and so they divide themselves into three rankes, with an indifferent ranke serving them all. In like manner, there bee 3 sortes of stroakes, commonly used in casting of all letters, to wit, Constant, Variable, and Deficient; all the fore saide three sortes of stroakes are constant, the 4 variable; and as for the deficient, or defective sort, it is oft used in conjoining of letters within words, with common or borrowed stroakes; they not having anie belonging properlie unto themselves.

FIrst, let 72 letters of the number in the great Alphabet, be written only with one strike, or once setting downe of the pen upon the paper, before it bee taken up agane, and these bee, the

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 2, 3, 4, - - - a, | 5, 6, 7, 8, b, |
| 2, 3, - - - b, | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, t, |
| 3, 4, - - - d, | 4, 5, - - - k, |
| 7, 8, 9, 10, c, | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, - - l, |
| 2, 3, 4, - - g, | 2, 3, 4, - - m, |

2, 3, 4, - - II, 2, 6, - - - - f,
3, 5, - - - - D, 4, 5, - - - - S,
5 - - - - - p, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, - II,
2, 3, 4, - - q, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, W,
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, t, 2, 3, 4, - - F,
6, 7, - - v, and the 1, 2, 3, 4, - - z.

And because, the unskilfull may perchance begin some of these letters at the wrong side, though they haue but one strike, I will therefore set downe onlie the beginning of each one of them, for removing of all doubts; so that they cannot beginne them wrong (for I hope they will not be so childish as to cast them backwards) which is a lesson as imitable, as if thou saw them written by anie Master of this Arte.

N O T A.

I omit the sorts of Capitall A in these Rules; because, any of sober skill, by considering of the single and double letters which be here specified, may not onlie understande how these few; but all sorts of Capitals represented thereby, and pertaining to the long Alphabet are casten, and how oftein the pen shoulde bee lifted in doing thereof; even as easilie as the whole single and double letters of the same Alphabet, may be understande to bee casten by degrees, by those few number contained in the Rules of the short Alphabet:

Secondlie, let 45 letters bee casten with two strikes, or twise setting downe and lifting up of the pen, these be, the

I, - - - - a, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, e,

I, - - - - b, 2, 5, 6, 7, f,

I, 2, 3, 5, 6, c, 1, - - - - g,

I, - - - - d, 1, 2, - - - h,

5, - - - - i, 1, - - - - q,

1, 2, 3, - - k, 1, - - - - r,

1, - - - - l, 1, 3, 4, - - s,

3, 2, 4, - - o, 1, 2, 3, - - g,

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, - - t, 1, 6, 7, - - - u,
and the 3, - - - w.

And since it is hard to descearne rightlie the two severall strikes of each letter, and right way of the penne in casting thereof, when they are joyned together, as in the Alphabet; which commeth by occasion of the lifting of the pen once betwixt the doing of them; I haue therefore thought good to marke everie one, whereby the doing of each strike may bee distinctlie knowne: and that by leaving a defect, or open parte, betwixt the two strikes, where the penne must bee taken up; and the ticke or piece, taken, or rather with-holden foorth thereof, put beside it, for the better knowing of the precise parte where they are conjoyned; to wit, betwixt the ending of the first strike, and beginning of the second: which defect, therefore, is not left heere to bee resembled, but the severall partes of Letters thereby the better perceived.

Thirdlie, let tenne Letters bee casten vwith
three strikes, or thrise downe-setting of the pen,
to wit, the *q*, *c*: *i*, *z*, *g*, *f*: *l*, *m*: *z*, *r*, *p*: *s*, *ff*:
q, *t*: and the *s*, *v*: which bee likewise set
downe in manner, and for the cause immediate-
lie before exprimed; but with two wantes: be-
cause each one of them all hath three severall
strikes, except these two, which have four, to
wit, the *q* *cc*, and *ff*.

Fourthlie, let these 14 Letters, the *z*, *d*:
z, *z*, *g*: *z*, *z*, *g*, *h*: *z*, *u*: *z*, *u*: *z*, *u*: and
the *z*, *z*, *z*, *g*, *v*: bee written indifferentlie, in
respect of their variablenesse, and inconstancie,
to wit, with one stroake of the penne, as they
occurre in anie of the two sortes of Current
Writ, as heere thou mayest perceiue howe they
beginne.

And with two strikes, in anie of the two sortes
of Com,

mon Writ, as heere their severall strikes may
bee scene.

And last, these two, the *s*, *m* : and *4, pp* :
the one with one stroake of the penne in Cur-
rent Writ, and three in Common Writ ; and
the other casten with two strikes in Current,
and foure in Common.

Thus farre tende the Rules of Information,
concerning Single and Double Letters : as for
Capitals, which would seeme more difficulte, and
therefore more needfull to haue beeene thus se-
vered by partes, for knowing thereby of their
severall stroakes ; it is true, if they behooved to
bee first learned, thou wouldest finde them har-
der to followe than these : but since thou art
thus trayned up, with the knowledge and exer-
cise of Single and Double Letters (beeing the
easiest sorte) first, and not the lesse moste need-
full ; because all Writing standeth moste by
them,

them, as sayde is, I thinke it not requisite to be so tedious as to explaine the Capitals: for by the sight of them in the great Alphabet, and by the Rules of their Limitation, thou mayest both easilie consider their number of stroakes, and suddenlie resemble them. And although they might bee as easilie declared in that manner, as the Single and Double Letters, yet because they keepe not such a constant fashion, beeing so often altered, eyther by adding some more worke unto them, or by substracting some stroakes from them, (at the option of the Writer, as hee findeth oportunitie) they cannot well bee directed by Preceptes, to keepe anie constant number of strikes.

Therefore, I must needes applie mine Instruction in this behalfe, somewhat to the ordinarie forme of Masters to their Disciples; who in teaching of anie Science, teach much indeede, but remitte farre more to their owne private Studie: and besides both, they must even conceiue manie thinges, which are understande by one thing expreised: a fayre Face absent, by the Picture thereof present: but heere the most parte is expreised, and declared, and the least understood, and remitted.





THE RVLES OF
PERFECTION, IN
Faire Writing:

Concerning the right Proportioning, Measuring, and situating, of Single and Inseparable Double Letters; as also the conjoyning thereof within wordes, as they occurre, which chieflie consisteth in seldome lifting of the Penne, while as they be written.



Ince thou hast beene taught that al single and dowble letters in the Alphabet, haue either bodies, heads, or tailes, and some of them al three; let the like equalitie of bodies, heads, and tailes of letters, be kept in lines of writ, as they haue on double square in Alphabet, whether thou haue double square

square indeede, or but imagine thou hast it: that is to say, the bodies of all such letters as haue them, must fill the rowme betwixt the two squares, the heades goe aboue the high square, & the tailes come under the low square: and as it is true by Doctrine of Precept, so is it true by Example of Practise; beholde the whole single and double letters in the great Alphabet, if they bee not so framed, measured and bounded: except only the fift **o**, which requireth sometime to be written almost aboue the high square, (for speedes cause) when it occurreth in Current Writ, after the **s** **t**, as is probable by that same letter standing in these wordes,

Let so farre of the down-comming strike requiring to bee great, of all single and double letters, as shall happen to fall in betwixt the scores, (or fill up the bredth of the line) bee made straight, and neither ly asquint to the right hand, nor to the left, as these two, the **z** **b**, and **z** **f**: excepting first these **g**, the **4a**, **3**, **4**, **1**, **3**, **4**, **q**, and the **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **s**; which require to decline to the right hand, where the lines ende. And next, the bodies of all letters in the Alphabet, which haue any forme of compassing or roundnesse within.

And if thou bee inclined to cause the most part of thy letters decline, or leane to the right

hand (as all men commonlie are) the only remedie is, that thou striue against that thy inclination, till thou subdue that wrong forme of declination; and that by causing them leane to the left hand, or margine, where all lines begin (saue the lines of the Hebrew Character, and some others) and by so doing, thou mayest the more easilie command thine hand, to keepe an indifferent meane betwixt both, that is, to make all the letters of this Character to stand straight up and downe, except these before excepted.

Let the heades of all single and double letters, which haue them, be of a like hight aboue the high square, whether they bee compassed heades, crooked, or slanted; but the last sort, not to bee altogether so high as the other two: compassed, two manner of wayes; close and open, close compassed heades, ascending small, and descending great, as these two, the **z b**, and **s f**: and open compassed, also ascending small, and descending great, as the **z f**, and **z s**: crooked heades, going up small, and concluding great, as the **s g**; or comming down great to the right hand, as the **s w**, or small to the left hand, as the **s r**: and slanted heads, ascending small, and descending great, as the **g**, single **v**: or concluding great, as the **z d**: or concluding small, as the **z f**: or yet beginning small up, and growing great downe, as the

the **i**, or **z**, **t**. But the heads of these two, the **z**, **f**, and **s**, require not onelie to be higher, or elevated, and exalted, beyonde other Letters, aboue the high Score; but likewise wider compassed than anie of those which fall under the Rule, and the heads of these fife, the **i**, **d**: **6**, **t**: **3**, **4**, and **6**, **w**: to bee shorter, or not so high, as anie of these which come within the compasse thereof.

Let the tayles of all the Single and Double Letters bee alike lowe under the lowe Square, whether they bee casten straight downe, remayning still; straight downe, returning up; or compassed about: yet the sharpe pointes of the first sorte, maketh the tayles thereof to come somewhat lower than the other two: which, therefore, shall not bee counted in their length, so long as the libertie thereof is not abused; that is, by making them so long out of measure, that they doe harme unto diverse Letters in the Lines following, after the Lines wherein they stand, as the *French* sortes of these Letters commonlie doe. The Letters which bee straight downe, remaining still, are, the **z**, **f**, and **s**: straight downe, returning up, as the **5**, **p**, and **3**, **q**: and compassed about, as the **4**, **h**, and **2**, **y**. But the tayles of these foure, the **3**, **g**: **4**, **r**: **5**, **y**: and **4**, **z**, require not onelie to bee lower, or farther under the low Score: but wider compassed than anie of these which obserue

the Rule: and the tayles of these ffeue, the **4**, **g**: **3**, **4**, **p**: **4**, **q**: and **6**, **v**, to bee shorter, or not so lowe, as anie of those which come within the reach of the Rule.

Let none of the compassed tayles of these seaven letters, the **4**, **5**, **h**, **2 r**, **2**, **4**, **v**, and **2**, **3**, **z**, bee anie farther foorth under the low square, than the foremost parte of each one of them which is betwixt the scores, to the effect, the higher and lower part thereof beeing not only alike foorth both up an downe, a small strike or lineament of the penne may goe directlie up (both for the causes of greater speede, and better conjoyning) from the tayle of anie of them, as they occurre, and that to the next Letter following within that worde, (if there bee anie, and require such a to-comming) but likewise each one of them may so holde it selfe within its owne bounds, as that the quantie thereof may doe no harme to Lines following, if anie shall happen to bee, as in these wordes :

Except in the last Line of thy Writ, although their tayles bee both farther foorth, and longer, yet small stroakes (if so I may call them) may goe directlie up from them, and yet doe no harme, because no moe Lines will followe, as of this quantitie, in the two Exemples following, (if thou pleaseest) thou mayest make the

two Letters which beginne them, both when they goe up unto Letters which admitte small strikes to come unto them, and when Letters chance to ensue which admitte none: so testimonies of both doe appeare by these wordes :

Let the crosse strikes of each one of these two Letters, **f**, and **t**, with the **4 g**, goe thorow them, justlie and lightlie on eyther side, endlonges the high Square, likewile of these ffe, the **3, 4, 5, t**: **3**, and **7, e**, whereof everie one hath a strike proceeding from it, on the fore (or last) side onelie: and also the crosse strikes happening to these **36**, the

1, 2, - b, **2, - - - e,** **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 0,**
1, 2, -- c, **1, 2, 3, - g,** **1, 2, - - - p,**
1, 2, 3, 4, 0, **1, 3, - h,** **2, - - - q,**
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, single v, **2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, double w,**
1, r, 1, v, 1, z,

With these ffe, the **2, p: 5, m, n, & single u**, when each one of them is casten with diverse stroakes, and the **4**, or double **pp**, when it is casten with maniest; none of them having anie strike at all, seene or expressed, while each one is set alone, as in the Alphabet; but altogether

understoode: for although none of themselues haue eyther crosse strikes going thorowe them, or anie other strike at all proceeding from them, (except the last **d** and **e** heere expressed) because they are otherwise proportioned: yet, as each one of them happeneth to bee accompanied with another, or yet with other Letters in anie worde, it is found to haue a little small strike, going there from, unto anie of the former sortes, sometimes justlie, endlonges the high Square, and sometimes to arise from the last side of each one of them, the distance of an haire bredth, under the same, as the entrie to the Letter immediately following requireth; which doeth slet up thorowe the high Square, to the beginning of that Letter, if it admitte such a beginning; or to anie other, that hath anie entrie at all, to the effect that it may leane closelie to the first side thereof, except onelie the sortes of long **f**, but chiefelie the **z**, **3**, and **6**, thereof: and that both for the greater speednesse in writing, and more seemelie conjoyning of all Letters in thy Writ, as in these wordes:

Yet the strike going thorowe the **z**, or **5**, **f**, in the Alphabet, is oftentimes used to bee on the lowe Square, when anie of them chanceth to preceede the **3**, or **5**, **0**, in anie worde, but
chiefelie

chiefelie of Current Writ, as is evident by these :

Although thou haft beeene taught to make all Letters within wordes alike neare; yet draw the crosse strikes comming thorowe Letters on eyther side, or from them, on the fore-side onelie, (that is, the side towardes the right hande) somewhat farther foorth, where, or when Letters wanting heads doe followe, which admitte strikes from former Letters to beginne them: and chiefelie the strike going thorow the *z*, *t*: for nevertheleſſe that former Rule and this agree; ſince in diſtance betwixt Letters ſtanding within wordes, the firſt and laſt partes, (that is, the neareſt partes) of them, is as muſt reckoned as the ſtakſes thereoſ, where thorowe these crosse ſtrikes come; and that whether endlonges, or crosse-wayes the Squares, as in theſe wordes :

If thou intendest to bee a ſpedie Writer, remember that thou lift not the penne, (except to take Inke) to, nor within the casting, of anie Single or Double Letter, made with one ſtrike, within a worde; leſt thereby, beſides ſlowneſſe in the action, thou make defectes in casting of theſe whole, or uncutted Letters, (whole, I ſay, beſte albeit they may bee caſten and learned by partes, or degrees, in man-

ner before specified; yet they are never severed by severall strikes, as the remnant Single and Double) neyther yet take the penne up to the casting or beginning of anie Letter of diverse strikes within it selte, nor after the casting of any single or double letter of this Character, (as is usuallie done in learning to write them severallie by order of Alphabet, where there is a good distance left betwixt everie two) but let the last or readiest part of the letter which thou hast alreadie written, beginne the first or nearest part of the letter, which next followeth to be written; and that by drawing a litle whit or light touch from the one to the other, as in the letters of these words,

And since there be diverse exceptions from this Rule, I divide them into foure rankes, both for the causes of better consideration, and remembrance thereof: 1, there bee some letters which must needes haue the pen taken up both to, and after, the casting of each one of them; 2, some onlie to the casting; 3, some after the casting (as for the up-taking in the casting of letters, I omit it, because it must needes bee done; and therefore ought not to be restrained) and 4, there be some which haue no constant or fast strokes going from them to others, but a movable or variable of-set, arising from a clozed

con-

conclusion of the one which preceedeth, and added to the nearest part of the other, that followeth, which serveth as a Bridge for passage to the pen betwixt them, and so it is doubtfull unto which of the two it belongeth.

The first sort, is two folde; first, the whole single letters which properlie belongeth to the principal sorts of Set wⁱt, being 23 in number, with the 2 **W**, belonging also thereunto; are excepted from this Rule, and that as they are written strietlie, but not largelie: Strietlie, because it is a superiour forme, and therefore, and in respect of the excellencie and curiositie of all the letters thereof, aboue any of the remnant formes of *Secretarie*, it cannot be so well directed to bee fast written as anie of them; for it is the fountaine, and they are but the conduites; and partlie for that respect, and partly, because it is slow of it selfe, and for the most part close every way, that is, wanting passage from letter to letter; some libertie must needes bee granted unto the Exercers thereof, to lise the pen so much the ofter in writing of the same. But if thou wilt consider them largelie, albeit the most part of the letters therein while as they are in writing, cannot so commodiouslie and convenientlie arise each one foorth of another, as the letters in the rest of the formes; and therefore the pen must be so much the ofter taken up; yet, being written, the moste parte of all the Letters in the

same, are found little worse conjoyned, with strikes leaning thereunto, often times upon one of the sides, and sometimes on both, as if the Penne did proceede orderlie, out thorowe one, and in thorowe another; as may bee made cleare by these wordes, consisting of such letters:

And secondlie, these three sortes of one Letter, the *z*, *g*, and *s*, are accepted for two causes: first, because the Penne must needes bee twise taken up, in casting of each one of them, (beside the up-taking thereof in the midst of the middle-moste) to wit, to the casting, and after the casting, to beginne the Letter following; which I make plaine, by the standing of such Letters, in these wordes:

And next, because none of them can suffer anie crosse strikes, comining justlie endlonges the high Square; eyther thorow, or from, whatsover Letters, to touch them on anie side, but especiallie the side towardes the right hand, lest thereby they haue no difference from the *z*, *s*; as doeth appeare by the like Letters, in these vvordes:

And so thou must take heede, that thou draw no strikes unadvisedlie thorow Letters: that is,
thou

thou shouldest fore-see whether or not the Letter resulting requireth such a strike to beginne the same: for in so doing, without deliberation, thou wile not onelie doe harme to the afore-sayde three Letters; but often times to some others also, such as the second **u**, and **u**, and thereby cause each one of them appeare like the **z**, **a**: as in these vwordes :

But both from the high heads of the first and last of the same three sortes of **s**, when they are casten upwardes, and not downewrdes, and the higher head of the middlemost, there may arise manie Letters, as the matter requireth; which bee of two sortes, having heads, and wanting heads: but all those which haue heads, saue the foure sortes of **d**, arise more comelie and pertinentlie, than anie of the other sorte, which want heads, unlesse it bee a fewe, vvhich beginne with sharpe slenting stroakes, aboue the high Square, and ariseth, or commeth off, no lesse comelie than the other sorte: the first ariseth both in the seconde sorte of Set hand, and anie sorte of Common, and these bee **z**, the 3 sortes of **b**: **z**, **3**, **4**, **d**: **z**, **5**, **f**: **z**, **3**, **4**, **h**: **z**, **3**, **4**, **5**, **k**: **1**, **2**, **5**, **l**: and **1**, **2**, **5**, **t**: with the same three sortes of **s**, them-selues, as anie of them happeneth to bee after another in anie worde whatsoever, by way of
dou-

doubling: as the like Letters in these wordes
giue sufficient probation:

And next, the seconde sorte, ariseth one-
lie in the two sortes of Current Writ, some-
what more superficiallie to keepe the Penne
unlifted, which bee 47. in number, to wit, the

2, 3, 4, - - - - a, 2, 3, 4, - - g,

2, 3, - - - - - c, 5, 7, - - - h,

3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, - e, 2, 3, 4, 5, - - i,

2, 5, - - - - m, 3, 5, - - - p,

2, 5, - - - - n, 2, 3, 4, - - q,

3, 4, 5, - - - o, 2, 3, 6, 9, - r,

2, 3, 5, - - u, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, v,

and the 2, 4, - - - x.

As in these words:

In like manner, these two sortes of one Letter,
the 6, 7, single v, which of themselues haue
neyther entreise for other Letters to come in to
anie of them, or beginne them, nor yet anie
constant off-set, proceeding from them unto
others,

others, and therefore the Penne must needs both bee taken up to the casting of each one of them, and after: and so, when they are found to bee joyned with other Letters, eyther before them, behinde them, or both; these on-ssets, and off-ssets, comming, or going, to them, or from them, doe belong to those other Letters, by right of proportion, rather as unto them: for a thing may serue oft times in common unto manie, by courteous toleration of the owner, and yet bee proper but to one: and so when the Proprietie fayleth, the Communitie wanteth: the conjoyning, therefore, of the which Letters, may bee perceived in these wordes:

The seconde sorte of the Letters excepted from the last Rule, bee these tenne, the *a*, *a*: *z*, *z*, *c*: *z*, *f*: *z*, *z*, *q*: and *z*, *z*, *z*, *z*, *t*: because the Penne must bee continuallie lifted, to the casting of each one of them, since they haue no entresse to receive anie of themselues, as they meete againe, or shall happen to bee doubled in a worde, saue this forme of meeting, of these two, the *z*, *f*, and *z*, *t*; and that two wayes, the *f*, with *f*; and *f*, with *t*: first, when the *f*, standeth in a worde, and the like hapneth to followe, it doeth become a double *ff*: that is, when the even-downe stalke thereof is begunne first, and not the compassing of the head,

head, and so then falleth under the Rule, because the Penne is neyther lifted to the casting of the same, nor after. And next, the **f**, with **t**: that is, when the **t** followeth after the **f**, the Penne is neyther lifted to the casting thereof, nor yet after, and therefore it observeth the Rule alto: as Examples of both may bee understande, by such Letters, contained in these wordes:

Neyther yet hath anie of this preceeding nūber entres (that is, accetſſe on the left ſide) to receiue anie other Letter, which hath a paſſage foorth, whereby they can bee rightlie begunne, (the nearest parte of them may well bee touched, or leaned unto) except onelie the foreſayde **z**, **3**, and **6**, **f**, which indeede may receiue anie of them; that is, arife there from, or joynē after the ſame; ſauē theſe two, the **4**, **cc**, and **tt**: as I approoue by ſuch Letters, in theſe wordes,

N O T A.

None of theſe ſeaven Letters, the **2**, **3**, **a**: **2**, **3**, **g**: **2**, **3**, **o**: and **2**, **q**; can neyther arife well, from the tayles of anie of themſelues, (occurring twiſe in one worde) nor anie others.

The thirde ſorte of Letters excepted, bee theſe three, the **7**, **h**: **3**, **r**: and **3**, **v**; be-cause

cause the Penne must bee taken up, after the casting of each one of them, to beginne anie Letter following, within a worde, (howbeit they bee moste proper in the ende thereof) whether it require a stroake or not, to beginne the same, as in these wordes :

And the fourth, and last sorte, bee these eight Letters, the **z**, **s**, **6**, **c**: **3**, **h**: **2**, **o**: **2**, **p**: **9**, **t**: and **3**, **w**, are excepted: these three also, the **5**, **m**, **n**, and **u**, when each one of them is written with diverse strikes: and these two, the **z**, and **3**, **g**, when each one of them is written with one strike, because the Penne must bee also lifted after the casting of each one of them, to the casting of anie Letter following, whether it requireth a strike, or not. And albeeit neyther these 13 Letters in the whole before mentioned, nor these nine, the **3**, **4**, **5**, **o**: **8**, **9**, single **v**: **4**, **5**, **6**, and **7**, **w**: nor yet the **3**, **p**, when it is written with two stroakes, hath anie passage to other Letters, which can anie wise belong unto them, by the right of shape, as may bee seene to enlacke in each one of these sortes, as they stand heere alone, and that because each one of them endeth with a closed conclusion, except the three Minum letters; yet, as they occurre in wordes, they finde out, and haue some passage, wherein the

the Penne resorteth amongst themselues, as they meeete againe in words, though it bee somewhat lifted after the casting of the foresaid 8, but most after the **h**, **r**, and iorts of **g**: and also it goeth from any of them, to whatsoeuer others which haue ane entres; and that either upon, or a little under the high square; and no wise to bee lifted after the casting of any of the remenant heere expreſſed; but to arise either from off the ſame square, or goe endlongs thereon, either to any of themſelues as they obviate others againe, or to whatſoever others which require ſuch a beginning; whether having heads, or wanting them: for althoſh all Letters joyne not together on both the ſides, yet uſuallie, either the formoſt ſide of everie one of them is joyned to the hindermoſt ſide of the letter preceeding the ſame, if it bee not the firſt of a worde; or elſe the laſt ſide thereof to the letter following, if it be not the laſt of a word. Or, to be ſhort, each letter muſt be joined unto another, either before, after, or both: and if any be exeeemed, or excepted from this Rule & Exception, (for in this point it is both) it muſt be chiefelie the ſaid **z**, **3**, and **6 f**, before reſerved, the **5**, and **6 e**, in the Alphaber, and the **2 o**, heere expreſſed: and for thy better conſideration of the particulars of this exception, thou haſt theſe Exemples, which doe con-
taine

taine some of the letters heere specified, where-
in the way of the penne may bee easilie perci-
ved,

THE CONSTRVCTI^oN

THE CONSTRVCTI^oN
Of Faire VVriting:

Or right contriving, setting, and
ordering of Letters in Fayre Writ: Begin-
ning first heere, at the placing of Letters
rightlie in Syllables; and then proceeding from
Syllables to Wordes, and last, from
Wordes to Sentences.

S E C T. I I.

CONCERNING SYLLABLES.



Sillable, is the pronouncing
of one or moe Letters joyned
with one breath.

Seeing Sillables are com-
posed of Single or Double let-
ters, the matter heere to bee
treated, is the right making up

L of Syl-

of Sillables with Letters, or right placing of Letters in Sillables.

A Sillable, may admitte anie one or moe of the Single and inseparable Double Letters, or any one of the 5 separable double which follow to be spoken off, to wit, the *s*, *g*, *8*, *9*, *e*, being Diphthongs, and the *s* *ii*, as the nature thereof requireth; & sometimes though two letters belong to a sillable, one is expressed onlie, another understande, and a little rowme left voyde for the same, with a crooked dash made like a *Comma*, set over it; which is used in Poesies for the Verle cause, as in the last Sillables of these words,

And so, if thou canst spell, or syllabe well, and place the Letters rightlie, which follow hereafter, that is, as they are directed to bee; thou needst neither to make up Sillables of wrong Letters, by nature or sound; nor place Letters wrong in Sillables, by a disagreable proportion.

Let no Sillable accept of a Single *v*, in place of a Double *w*, as in these wordes,

nor a Double *w*, in place of a Single, as in these wordes,

but place each one in its owne rowme, both
con;

conforme to the nature of the wordes, wherein it standeth, and to the sound of the Sillable, whereof it is a part; which Sillable sometimes requireth a whole or full voyce, as in the first Sillable of each one of the first wordes, when they are rightlie set; as thus,

and sometimes a halfe, or at least, not altogether so full; as in the first Sillable of each one of the last words, being also rightlie Sillabed,

Let anie beginning and middle Sillable of whatsoever *English* word, wherein there is diverse Sillables, receiue a *vowell u*, in the midst; as also in the ending, except sometimes when anie of these 3 other vowels, *a*, *e*, or *o*, doeth preceede, then there requireth a Double *w*; and anie ending Sillable in the midst only: (that is, anie part within the border Letters thereof, and not aye the precise middle letter of the same) but neither any ending Sillable of a worde in the beginning nor ending, nor yet anie beginning nor middle Sillable in the beginning, except some consonant either immediatlie follow, or that there be no moe letters in that Sillable; and so the beginning, midst, & ending thereof consisting all in one: the prooфе

of sundry wherof, may be perceived in some Sillables of these words,

A Sillable must neither receive a Single Consonant **v**, in the midst, nor ending; but always in the beginning, as in the latter Sillables of these words,

Let anie Sillable in the ending, which concludeth with anie of these two Letters, **m** and **n**, haue them rather written short than long, that is, rather abreviated, leaving some letters to the consideration of the Reader, than at length by expressing of them all; but chiefelie when that Sillable consisteth of Minum Letters: because in this Character, these Letters will be so much the more legeable in anie word wherein they stand, as in these two,

But indeede two breviations are neither seeme lie nor legeable in Sillables of one word: and although I haue set a Double **mm**, in the Alphabet, yet it ought rather to bee written in Great and second sort of Set Writ, where abreviations bee seldom used, than in Small and Current Writ, where they oftentimes occur.

Let no beginning nor middle Sillable with-
in

in a worde where there is diverse Sillables, receiue a whole separable Double Letter, but bee severed in twaine, for two Sillables together, that is, one Double making two Single in sillation; the one whereof, to be the last of the first Sillable, and the other, to be the first of the last Sillable; and seldom anie manner of way, either before or after a consonant: as may bee easilie noted by such letters in any of these words,

the right practise of the writing of the which separable letters, is chiefelie knowne at the end of a line, where if they bee not separated, to wit, the one, at the ending of one line, and the other, at the beginning of another line; with some marke or touch of the pen left there, whereby whosoever that readeth the same, may know in reading of the same line, that the rest of that worde followeth in the next line; thine ignorance or carelesnesse will appeare, by that thine owne labour: but anie Latine Syllable requisite, may receive anie of these sixe the *s, 6, 8, 9, e, and the 5, si*: as in these wordes:

Let anie Syllable seldom receive anie of these foure Letters, the *4, 8: 2, e: 3, and 4, q*, when those which have the high, or higher sorte of heads immediatlie result; but rather

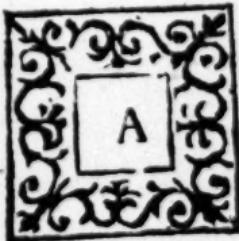
to preceede those which want heads, or haue but the shorter sorte of them: leit if they which haue heads bee not attentiuell convoyed another way from the slenting strikes of the fore-named torbidden Letters, the most part of all which bee abone the high Square of the one sorte of Letter, will bee stayned, and defaced, by the other; and that because no Letters wanting heads doe interveane: as may bee perceived by such Letters, receiuing the like damage, in these wordes:

ANNOTATION.

The ȝ, or consonant ȝ, hath commomlie a tayle, both when it occurreth in one Syllable alone, and when it is conjoyned unto a rowell i, that is, made conforme to the ȝ ii, in the Alphabets; or, as it is insert in the foresaid word, adjicio, howbeit it was wont to bee contrariwayes, to wit, the longest ȝ, put in the last place, for the more speedie writing, or hastie aysing thereof from off the other: it is certaine, that the way now used thereof, is the best way, howsoever it be the long somest way; it may bee, that a neare by-rodde bee not ill, if the passage therof bee anywayes good; but I thinke the bie way, is both surer and better, suppose it bee somewhat about: but when the aforesaid Double Letter occurreth in two Sillables together, they require to bee short both alike, and so become as the ȝ ii, in the Alphabets, or as in the word, iis.



S E C T. III.

Concerning Wordes.

Worde, is an absolute and perfect voyce, wherby some thing is meant or signified.

A Worde, is sometimes composed of diverse Silla- bles, and sometimes of one Sillable onlie; which often-times containeth sundrie Letters, and sometimes but one.

And because the composing of Syllables in Wordes, belongeth not to *Calligraphie* or *Faire Writing*, but to *Oriographie* of right Sillabing; I will not insist therein, but holde foorthwards the purpose I haue in hand, that is, to declare how to place Letters in Wordes: which I will endeavour to doe, in the selfe same manner ob- served in Syllables.

Let no Worde receive anie of these 18 Letters, the 3 a, 4 d, 4, 10, e, 6, 7, f, 6 h, L 4 3, l,

3 l, 3 n, 4, 8, 10, r, the 5 sorts of short s, and 3 t, in the beginning, nor midst; but alwayes in the ending, which therfore are called, Finall Letters: as in the ende of everie Word of this Sentence,

Let no Word admit any of these 5 sorts of one Letter, the 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 long s, in the ending, (as Finall Letters) but alwayes in the beginning and midst; as in these Wordes,

Let no Word receive the 7 w, in the midst, but alwayes in the beginning and ending; as in these,

because some of meane skill will readilie suppose that it be rather the 5 l, and 2 b, conveaned together, than that which it is; and so make the Word wherein it is written, to bee oft mistaken (except in so farre as the sense of the matter wil proue otherwise to them, if they haue anie reasonable understanding) as it may indeede, in these wordes, (if the wordes which other,

otherwayes they appear to bee, were any lan-
guage)

And howsoever it may be alleadged, that none of those two Current sortes of **W**, the **4**, and **6**, can bee written with such speed as the other sorte of **W**, immediatlie exprimed; I answere, the first of the two may bee as speedilie written indeede, as it: and although it were not, yet that vvorde vwherein it shall happen to bee found, (I meane in the midst) vwill bee easier read, than if the other letter vvere in place thereof, because it is so doubtfull as sayde is: and as to the last, I vwill not take upon mee to defende the sufficiencie of it; but rather giue mine Advise to discharge it, seeing it is more like unto thse two Letters, the **z**, **i**, and **3**, **0**, in this manner, **io**, than that wherefore it is put; and that because it hath no kinde of head to make anie discrepancy from these Letters: except onelie that the first of them hath a ticke set over the same, which the **W** wanteth, and is oftentimes neglected in writing, aboue the Letter, where it should bee set: as also, neyther is the single sorte of the sayde last **W** allowable, because it is like the Current, or **5**, **0**; nor yet the other **W**, because it is so uncertaine.

No worde in the midst, nor ending, must receiue anie of these 14 Letters, the **3**, **b**: **5**, **c**: **7**, **e**: **2**, **i**: **4**, **k**: **5**, **l**: **2**, **m**, **n**, **r**, and vowel **u**:

4, con-

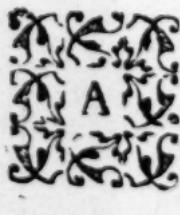
4, consonant **v**: 4, and 7, double **w**; but al-
wayes in the beginning: or else each of them
must renounce to much of the sharpe stroake
thereof as is under the lowe Square: and like-
wise the **z, m**, when it hath the small com-
passe strike: the proofe of this Rule doeth appear
by this Exemple,

Let anie Latine Worde requisite admitte a
Vowell u, as well in the ending, as in the be-
ginning, and midst, before a Consonant, as in
these,



S E C T. I V.

Concerning Sentences, or Lines.

 SENTENCE, or LINE of WRIT,
is an Oration, containing a ge-
nerall pronunciation, which eyther
exhorteth, dissuadeth, demonstra-
teth, or declareth.

SEN.

SENTENCES, or LINES, (being the fourth or last of the Signes which signifie the Voyce) doe consist in the composing of Wordes.

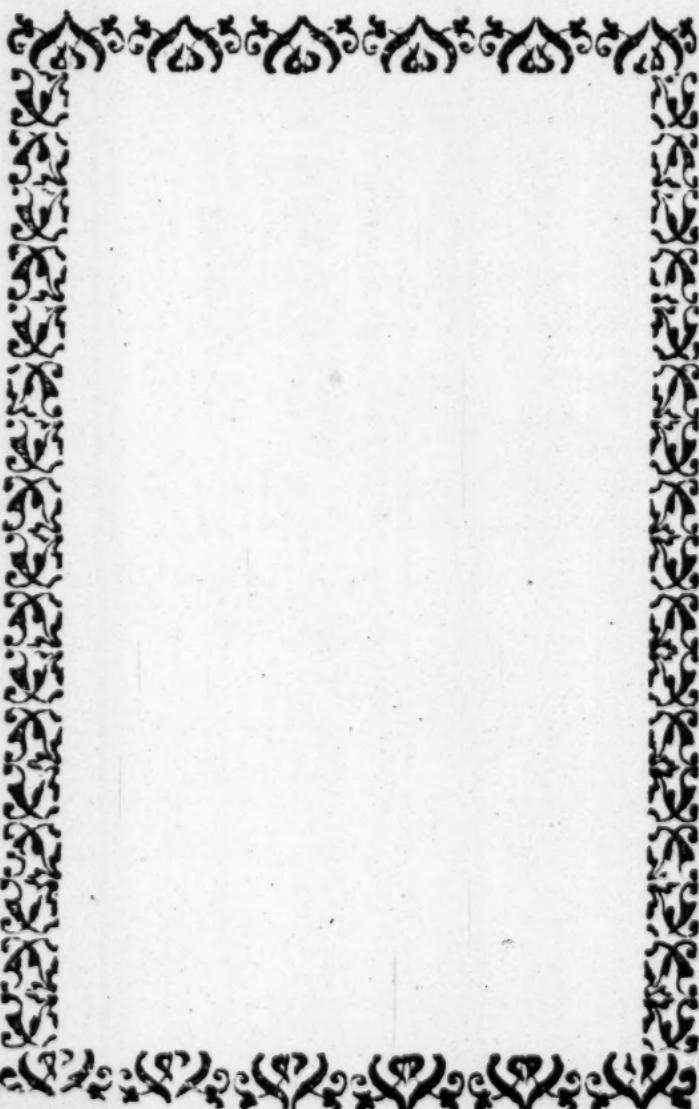
A Sentence, is sometimes comprehended in diver'e Lines, some times in one Line, and some times in a Worde; and which Worde, beeing written in big Letters, will some times exceede a line of great length.

And for as much as the composing or constructing of vvords (vwhereof Sentences doe consist) belongeth unto the Latine Grammar, I will not digresse, but declare briefelie what letters should beginne Sentences, and lines, as well according to their nature, as proportion; and both how and where to beginne them: and whereas they bee often times begunne otherwayes, that is, with other letters than bee heere allowed to beginne them; it is done ignorantly, or negligently, in the first; and accidentlie, or occasionallie, in the last.

Beginne no Sentence but with a Capitall letter: if it bee a beginning Sentence, of a matter, or page, let it bee a Beginning Capitall: if it bee a middle Sentence, (that is, in the midst of a page, or matter, contained therein alreadie begunne) let it bee a middle Capitall: likewise, a middle Capitall must ever immediatlie follow a complete period, at the concluding of the last Sentence preceeding the same; and eyther beginne a proper name with it selfe, or else make

it to

it to consist whollie of its owne associates. The Exemple of this Canon, may bee seene in this sentence, at length :



V
first,
ving
begu
line,
the h
happ
high
Cap
waye
not f
mea
four
they
Scor
with
head
up a
with
writ
nest
take
ging
part
for t
will
tick
sent
Squa
and

When thou beginnest anie line, saue the first, eyther with letters wanting heads, or having but the shorter sorte of them, let them bee begunne so farre downe, from the preceeding line, as thou mayst haue sufficient rowme aboue the high Square of that line which thou shalt happen to beginne, for these which haue the high and higher sorte of heards, and for middle Capitals, (I speake of Square, as if it were alwayes exprested: for I am perwaded, thou art not so ignorant now, but thou knowest what is meanned by imaginarie Square) except these four, the 4, a: 3, c: 3, and 4, q: because they haue small slenting strikes aboue the high Score. And when thou beginnest anie line with the letters themselues which haue high heads, or with midle capitals, let them be so hie up as thou hast rowme aboue the high Square, without doing harme to anie Letters in the last written line. But beware while thou so beginnest with anie letter of eyther sorte, that thou take not thy measure by rayles of letters belonging to the line preceeding; but by the lowest parte of their bodies, on the low Square. And for thy better attayning unto this Perfection, it will not bee amisse, though thou make 2 small tickes at the beginning of everie line, to represent the 2 Squares; to wit, one for the high Square, or high parte of the bodies of letters; and another for the lowe Square, or lowe parte of

of the bodies of them: to the intent, that the bodies, heads, and tayles of letters, may bee the righter and comelier situated thereupon, in the beginning of the line, and so proceeding justlie, as on two Squares, unto the ende of the line, and so conseq ientlie, to the ende of all which thou so writest; lest one line bee too farre distant, and another over neare, and so make thy Writ both unlegeable, and unseemelie. The obseruation whereof, may bee perceived in the Exemple, or Exemplare, of the last Rule.

Let the first line of Matter, Page, or Article, haue these two letters, the *z*, *f*, and *s*, properlie to belong unto it; lest if their heads being made of such quanticie, (as in Alphabet,) in anie other line, where there is no such voyde boordes aboue, they molest some letters in the line going before, as thou mayest perceiue in these Exemples of Caution, but not of Imitation,

Let onelie beginnings of lines haue these foure letters properlie to belong unto them, the *z*, *g*: *s*, *w*: *4*, *y*: and *z*, *z*: for if they bee insert in anie other partes of lites, their heads and tayles will also hurt other letters, and so make confusion of thy Writ: the prooфе of which Rule doeth appeare by these foure wordes, set at the beginning of these foure lines following.

Good,

P O T A.

There is great naſe, in the Pronoucing
and ſhabing of English, of a ſorte of a, to
be pronounced like the Grake Letter η , and
of an u, to be pronounced like ν : and if any
Letter be ſuperfluouſ in the English Alphabet,
it is likeliest to be z: not that it can be well
ſpared neyther, but because it remayneth ydlest
of anie Letter.

As alio these Syllables, ca, ce, co, cu, ney-
ther agræ, nor goe forwardes alike, with the
Letter c, howbeit it bee a thing uſual: nor
t-i, for ci: and ſundrie other absurdities,
which might bee remedied, if regarde were had
therunto: but because they agree not well to
my purpose, I remit them to Writers of Di-
tographie.





THE CONCLVSION,

Somevwhat concerning Puncts,
and Accentes; as also Abreviations,
and of the Effayres, and Writs,
wherein they are most used.



Ow in ende, it resteth only
that I speake of Puncts, Acc-
cents, and Abreviations, used
in Writ: albeit the writing of
Puncts and Accents,doeth be-
long unto this Arte, yet the
nature and use of them pertain-
eth to the Hebrew, Latine, and Greeke Gram-
mars, and other Authors; where they be largely
taught: wherefore I thinke it neither needfull
to declare how to write them, because they are
so plaine and easie, nor yet to enter in discourse
there-

thereanent ; but remit thee unto these places, where if thou bee learned , thou art alreadie, if not, thou mayest bee sufficientlie informed of their definitions and observations ; and if thou bee not learned, thou hast little use for Puncts, and no use for Accents.

An Abreviation, is the contracting or signifying of some Sillables or Letters ; and that either by one or moe Letters theinselues , or some other significatiue stroake or signe made with the pen , knowne sometimes by Proportion, sometimes by Situation, and sometime by both.

When thou writest or extractest hastily any matter of little weight , it is the right and convenient time , to write the moste usuall Abreviations either of Wordes, Sillables, or Letters, as occurreth in the matter , and useth or requieth to bee abreviated or written short : for manie things must be written even concerning weightie matters , such as Engrofments , Epistles, Compts, Scroles , Minutes , and others of that nature , which neede seldom to bee written long , (that is , with all the Letters at length) or yet in the best sorts of writ. And while as they be sometimes otherwise found, it proceedeth rather of the will and disposition of the diligent Writer, by whom they are written, the Person to whome, or both, than being an-

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wayes requisite of their owne nature; seeing they are neither heretale rights for long endurance, perfect Patternes of learned Mens works for the Printing, nor Testificats to other Nations: but, if it bee thy will to prolong time in so doing, and declare thy cunning in writing of employments better than they use to be, rather than in anie worse exercise; I for my part shall both thinke thy travell well bestowed, and condescend thereunto with little solicitation.

Abreviations, or contractions therefore, being most frequent in such and the like busynesse, requireth to be written in Current Writ; because there is little disparitie betwixt the nature of these two: for as Current Writ is not chosen in such effaires, for anie goodnesse in it selfe, being the off-scourings and worst of all writ, but onlie for the swiftnesse; even so Abreviations are not used for anie goodnesse in themselues, seeing they but figure Letters, and Letters painte the Voyce, or demonstrate the minde; and so being a degree farther in place, are a degree worse in nature: which therefore, must rather be considered Hieroglyphicallie, & Mysticallie, by signification of Sense, than Siblically, by sound, or sillabication of Sillable; and that because the Letters themselues are not all expressed, nor present, whereby to make an harmonie; but a great part thereof contracted, and

and absent; and so therefore are but understood to bee, or imagined as if they were. Indeede some of the most tegeable Abreviations may agree to the two sorts of Common hand, aswell as the two sorts of Current hand, but seldome, or never, to the two sorts of Set hand.

Which Abreviations, I thinke not expedient to collect, and insert heere, nor yet to bee curious in describing of them; but rather to remit them unto thine owne experiment, and to the daylie practique of the Countrey, as they occurre to thee in the Wordes and Sentences of the Writs and Securities wherein they are most used; and that for two respecketes:

First, albeit the writing of them belongeth to Chirographic, yet their signification is not pertinent to bee heere; seeing the same pertaineth to Ortographic: and is to bee found (at the least, understood by certaine signes expressed) in frequenting of the former Sentences of Writs; that is, by often reading, extracting, or considering, of the same; eyther of purpose to learne them, or for the better performance of thy necessarie negotiations, and that in the companie of anie cunning Clerke or Notare, (with whome thou mayest haue such farther knowledge and exercise, as may eyther bring thee to some good Calling, or helpe thee to manage thine Estate, if thou bee borne to

Rentes) and though I should bestow travell on the collecting, and charges of the making of Types for Printing, exponing, and presenting of them unto thy sight in a Catalogue ; yet all would bee unprofitable, and needless, for want of their significations , unto the which the boundes of this Discourse doeth not reach.

Next , because all the preceeding Rules of this Booke are so infallible, that (to my simple judgement) they neede not in substance to bee altered : and so it would bee more ridiculous, than judicious , to adde anie thereunto which bee changeable nowe in the ende of this last intch, more than in the whole spanne.

These Abreviations (I say) are Changeable for two Causes : first , because for the moste parte everie sorte of Abreviation is found commonlie to haue two or three significations almost as often as one ; and so are rather understande by the Sentence wherein they are, than by the forme or manner of their contracting : in respect whereof, fewe or none of them can eyther bee commaunded, or contramaunded by Rules, to keepe anie single signification , yea, scarcelie a double.

And last , because some of them are made freelie, and some constrainedlie, these that are sayde to bee made freelie, or resolutelie, are voluntarilie made at the particular will of the Wri-

Writer : for everie Mechanicke Man esteemeth much of his owne conceite : and it is harde to comprise the true valour thereof, howsoever perhaps in his owne imagination it bee worth the halfe of his Rent.

And these Abreviations, which are sayde to bee made constrainnedlie, or indeliberateli, are abruptlie made, by occasion of haste, and consequentlie of fast Writing, yea, often-times for lacke of convenient time and place : because Necessitie hath no Law, and so is not capable of Reproose.

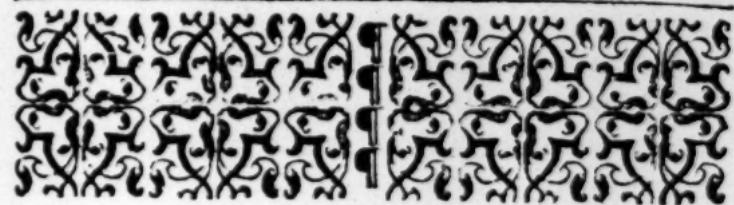
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A N
ABSTRACT
OF THE OBJECTIONS
AND EXCEPTIONS, WHICH
WERE PROPOINED BY CERTAINE
of the Learned, (to hinder the Ac-
complishment and Publication of
this preceeding Worke)
ANSWERED BY THE AVTHOR.

I.



Some doe extenuate
the Commendation of the
Arte of fayre Writing, and say,
What needeth it to bee so bighlie
extolled, and much set by, since it
is common? Vnto whom I answere:
It is so farre from beeing common, that scarcelie one of
an hundred who haue the Name of Fayre Writers,

knoweth the Theoricke thereof perfectlie, without the which (as a thing verie expedient) they can hardlie bee perfect: and farre lesse the Common sorte, who content themselves with the common Practise, which is full of absurdnesse and incongruitie: as is probable by eyther of their VVorkes, who list to trye them on the former Touch-stone, or conferre them with the preceeding Grammaticall Preceptes.

I I.

Others, will not give over this Point altogether yet, but draw it to farther length, saying, Though the Arte of Fayre VVriting bee rare, yet VVriting it selfe, (meaning the Tractise of the Arte) is common enough, and therefore needeth not to bee in so great account. To whom also I answere: The communitie and participation of excellent gifte, derogateth not the renorne and estimation thereof, if they bee rightlie used: for what gifte in the worlde are more excellent, yea, more honourable than Wisedome and Learning? and yet (prayed bee G O D) what lesse common are they than Fayre VVriting? and so the verie practise thereof keepeth the owne P. erogatiues for three causes: First, since it is needfull for everie Estate, from the highest, unto the lowest, and by consequent so much the more in preferment; why ought it not then to bee so much the more regarded by all Estates, and made common amongst all Estates? Secondlie, It is not so common neyther as neede doeth require; for although it bee common amongst manie, who bee come to perfect age, yet it is not so among

amongst all, but such as bee somewhat learned other-
ways: & though it were, yet it is not a whit the more
knowe by untaught Youth: yea, though they bee even
procreated of Skilfull Parentes; and the reason therof
is this, It goeth not by succession, nor yet by election,
but by G O D S free dispensation, apprehended by the
ordinarie meane of particular endeour: wherefore the
Children bothe of Noble and Learned men, and no At-
tourneyes for them, must with as great difficultie
learne, before they can write, as if their Parentes had
never learned nor written a Letter. And thidlie, al-
though VVriting bee common bothe amongst manie who
bee aged and learned, yet Fayne and Perfect VVriting is
rare, and in great request, amongst all of whatsoeuer age
or gifte, (though not altogether in such measure as in
former Ages) for it is one thing to write, and another to
write well; and so the one as different from the other, as
a Disciple from a Master.

III.

It is alleadged by some, That this Arte hath
beene written in some parte of the Worlde of before, al-
though in another forme; and theefre is not so rare
beere as it would appeare to bee. Vl hereunto I an-
swere: It is rare neverthelesse; for, giving, and not
granting, that it ha. b. beeene written in anie parte, or in
anie forme, (as is not impossible) it is ney. ber so univer-
sal, nor oft written, by diverje VVriters, as other Artes
bee: and verilie for mine owne parte, it was never expo-
sed to my senses, neyther was I out of SCOTLAND

to learne the same, nor yet taught within, except of the Great T E A C H E R of all Teachers; but had the common Libertie, (I meane, eyther to learne, or not to learne, as I pleased, after the awonted forme of Grammar Schooles, wherein VVriting was not taught nor professed. And although I had seene, heard, and beeene taught so to doe, as also had travelled to Forrasine Nations, where such kinde of Vertue is well maintained, and therefore aboundeth, as the most provident Bee worketh best in the richest Garden; it would haue beeene little prejudicall to the reputation of the Arte heere set downe: for as the foundation or invention of anie Worke, vindicateth the first place; so the Worke rightlie built thereon, is worthie of the second: but beeing utterlie demolished, and then re-edified both better, and in a better forme, it will at length obtaine the first: at the least, bee most in use, and in greatest request: and so the best VVorke, whether it bee the first or last, will winne the greatest commendation, howe manie soever bee to presume for the same: as the farthest cast of the double Cannon, hath more popular prayse, in presence of manie Contenders, and Spectators, than of few: for when one essayeth his Strength and Skill, and neyther having an equall to match him, nor a token set up before him, demonstrating some farre cast or throw of another; the mooste bee can doe at that time, is eyther to surmatch himselfe, in striving to cause everie cast free the another, or to set up some signe, farre or neare, to essay at another time, without purchasynge of anie present applause.

Indeede,

Indeede, there are some common Preceptes of this Arte both universall and oft written, by divers VVriters, whiche, so farre as I haue seene, & found right, I re-ite-rate and confirme beere, as few olde buildinges, bee altogether so ruinous, but either some Stones or Timber therew-of may serue to helpe the newe: and on the contrarie, such Preceptes as bee otherwayes, or agree not with this Character, as it is now practised, I reject altogether; as more unfit for anie use, than the verie Redde or off-scouringes of olde Buildinges: for the one cannot doe so much as helpe to defende the Arte whereof it would appeare to bee a parte, but the other, althooug it cannot bee steadable to the walles of newe worke, yet it may suffice to fill up a parte of the Rampart thereof, and so ayde the same with some kinde of Fence. So eyther these Preceptes haue beeene wrong from the beginning, or else the use of them is changed, thorow long continuance of time, (wherein everie thing changeth, except the Blessed Creator of all thinges) as the moste exquisite humane Invention of olde, is mightilie both metamorphosed and augmented now, by some cunning Translator: not that the Author thereof bath beeene inferiour to him in Skill, (as wee must charitablie judge) for the Author thereof had no Patterne at all to followe: and therefore so long as his foundation standeth, bee is worthie to haue place: at the least his VVorke, if his Name bee supprest: wher-
as the Translator and augmenter catcheth sometimes a three-folde advantage: first, by inspection of the founda-
tion layde by the foundator: next, by inspection of ne-

ver Editions made thereof, at the least, of the practises
of Generations or Times, betwixt the Author and him;
and thidlie, by the practise of the translator and aug-
menters owne time, and that perbapes in a farre lar-
ge.

But these precepts immediatlie before mentioned
are so few, unneccesarie, difficill, and confused, that
few can bee able to practise them aright, without the
helpe of an instructor; and although each one easlie
migt, they coulde attaine thereby to no perfection in
Faire Writing, without much farther instruction: and
so, the most complete, necessarie, plaine, methodicall, and
consequentalie the best Worke, out of all question will bee
thought the rarest Worke, and at the highest rate; what
Worke, or whose Worke jo ever it be, only if G OD be
the principall efficient, or true Author thereof.

IV.

It is objected by some, that this Arte being
published, will apparentlie make such a conformitie of
Writ everie where, that it will bee hard to discearne one
Manu-script from another, and so make the Subscript-
tions of Evidences doubtfull: I answere, that is a verie
naked Assertion, for two causes; first, althoug it could
be possible, that all the Writers benceforth who are to
bee in the World, migt be taught in one Schoole, by one
Instructor, and with constant Rules alike; yet such
would be the naturall disparitie of each ones particulares
forme of doing from another, that as each one differeth

in Phisiognomie or face, (which is not one of the least of G O D S miraculous Workes) so also in Chirograpbie, or forme of Letter; howsoever the contrarie would appeare at the first view, as manie people not well acquainted, haue mistaken others oftentimes at the first, thoroƿo appearance or similitude of gesture; yet with narrower marking, and viver attention, haue so found it otherwayes, that they haue excused themselves of that their enour.

Indeede, there hath bene some evill inclined ones, who haue studied to use, (or rather abuse) their skill in affectating & counterfetting of some particular mans forme of Writ, and yet could not write well anie pleasant forme, rather than to hold them with a generall solide Character: but it is farre easier for a faire Scribener to follow one of the most curious universall formes that is nowe used, than anie particular mans ragged forme, though they were boþ alike lawfull: whereby it is evident that the writing of diverse generall formes of writ is one thing, and the following of particular mens writ, is another; and whoþoever holdeth the contrarie opinion, doeth greatlie erre.

I confess, how manie so ever (that bee well mynded) doe write one master, with one forme of Letter, may all agree in the substance thereof; though they differ in the manner of the doing: even as a whole Classe of Theologues teaching one Text; or six severall Authors writing one subiect in farre distant places, at onetime, may all agree in effect, though they differ in Method, and yet not know one of another.

And

And last, it is not altogether the Subscription of Evidences that verifieth the trueth of the matter thereof, but in like manner the Seale of the Subscriber, and Testification of the Witnesses, which were present at the Subscribing: and so, though it were granted, that all mens Writ might bee conforme, (as is unpossible, even since the confusion of Languages, at the dejolation of the Tower of Babell) there bee diverse Lawes established, almost univerſallie, (Glorie bee to G O D) not onelie to keepe everie man in his Right, but likewise to punish condignlie those who doe wrong.

V.

It is alleadged by sundrie, That it is impossible that the Aire contained in this Booke can bee so good as personall or verball instruction foorth of the mouth of a Professor: and therefore the ſingle or bare uſe of the the ſame cannot bee verie profitable for the Young, and ſuch like alleadgements. I anſwere: If anie thing that is thought imposſible to bee done, ever come to paſſe, it is both the more regarded and admired when it commeth: ſo, I hope, contrarie to their hope, that the like ſhall befall it: for an ordinarie and common thing, baſt but a light and bare applause, althoſh the event even proone good: Who thinketh it anie cunning to draw Water out of a Fountaine where it aboundereth: to worke anie common labour on drye land, or beare weightie burthenes, after the ordinarie manner, by manie and ſtrong meaneſ: But there bee ſome few private men, who haue found out wayes to convey Water to a drye Cittie, worke under the

Sea,

Sea, transpor特 great Stones and Timber by fewe and
weake meanes, but verie rare, and doe sundrie charitable
and commone workes in the Countrey, that all the Gene-
rations before them did not so much as once dreame of:
yea, this same Generatio mocked them in the beginning,
but yet as they saw these Attempts accomplished, and
the successe proue contrarie unto their incredulous ex-
pectation, they were faine to hold their peace, (because of
the contrary sway the of the multitude) & admire the wor-
king of these workes which of before they thought im-
possible to worke.

It hath seldomē bene multitudes or communities sit-
ting in their Gownes together, that have devised the
maniest and rarest good workes, they might well (after
long solicitation of charitable minded men) establish
and up-holde them by authoritie and maintaineance,
when they were proponed, and found out to their band:
but it hath beene private men, for the moste parte, of
whome they haue often times esteemed least, who haue
bene inventors of all Policie, and good workes, in a Com-
mon-wealth.

It is true, Men can doe no Miracles, nor worke Im-
possibilities now a dayes: yet things which are impos-
sible with Men, are possible with G O D: for hee can
worke his VVorke by contraries, as by making all things
of nothing, by bringing Light out of Darknesse, Life out
of Death, and by afflicting his Saintes, that hee may
glorifie them: and even yet when hee worketh by Men,
hee chooseth commonlie the weakest Instruments for the
greatest VVorke, that his Glorie may so much the more
appear.

appeare: yea, further, bee suffererib his best worker oftentimes to haue maniest difficulties, to the intent that when they are done, and all impediments trodden under foote; his glorie may yet bee jo much the greater, by how much they haue bene impeded.

Indeede, it may bee that this Booke bee not aliogether meete for young Schollers at Grammar Schooles, yet I hope it will bee profitable for the elder sorte of them, & for al Students in Universities, in respect of their farther yeares, knowledge, and learning: for if personall instruction consisteth in audible information, and visible practise, so instruction by Booke standeth in legeable information, and imitable practise. Reade the secundarie cause of the Argument, and the first parte of the Narration, againe.

V. I.

It is excepted against this Booke, That it will bee a motine to abstract a great number of the Youth from Writing or Vulgare Schooles, and bee so greatlie prejudicall to the estate of Vulgar Masters, (who must needes liue by their Calling) that it will both procure hatred unto it selfe, and the Author thereof: and so foorth. I answere: It will serue for verie few of their number, and so abstract them verie little: for now, in this Age, where one remayneth in the Schooles untill bee bee fourteene yeares olde, tenne leare them before that time: and although it were otherwayes, they would learne so much sooner, by this Booke, in the companie, and by the advise of a Skilfull Writer, than by

by their owne private paines, and so prejudge him nothing of his awanted Due; if his Condition be, To teach them for so much, and not for such a space: and few under that age, can bee able to make much profitte thereby, except under the pedagogie of an Instructor.

Indeede, I thinke it better, that each one learneth to write in some reasonable measure perfectlie, before hee beginne eyther Grammar, or Philosopie, for helping him to effectuate his purpose both the sooner and better, than after the same, but never in the midst, except at some vacand houres by this Booke, for the reasons contained in the fift secundarie cause of the Argument. Likewise, such Masters of Grammar Schooles, or their under Teachers, as doe professe to teach this Booke at certaine dyets to their Schollers, may instruct any Childe of reasonable age or knowledge, almost as soone by these meanes, to bee both a Scholler and a Writer, as when hee is put to a Vulgar Master, only to learne to Write: and therefore one transumpt heereof is not onlie requisite to bee bounde in Volum with the Latine Grammar, for each one that learneth the same, that hee may learne to spell English by the one, aswell as Latine by the other; but likewise with anie English Booke for Lettors, that thereby they may learne to reade both. Print and Writ at once; beside the knowledge how to Write.

Moreover, this Booke will not onlie ease all cunning Masters of Writing verie much of their travells, by making all their severall instructions conformable and agreeable, (how farre soever they be distant in place)

and so worke the more effect, as is declared in the third secundarie cause of the Argument; but I hope one Extract thereof will informe a whole Schoole how to follow their Exemplars; and then farre more when eachone, at the least everie two or three haue one, where wch either to conferre together, or to peruse day about: and therefore the number of their Schollers will so much the more increase, by how much more hereby their paines will be effectuall: Consequentlie both this Worke, and the worker thereof, by the meanes will deserue loue in stead of hatred. But if anie of them thinke otherwayes, and would haue their hearts desire any wayes satisfied, surely they shall haue a verie sufficient mends, providing they will bestow the expenses; let them buy all the Extracts of this Booke, and either burne them all at once in a faire fire together, or else pine them away one after another, in kindling of their Tabacco; and I shal never quarrell them for their violence.

VII.

It is farther excepted against this Booke, that not onlie there bee diverse Rules and Sentences therein, and chieflie concerning the seldome uptaking of the Penne, somewhat more prolix and large than neede requireth, and therefore the more tedious to reade; but likewise some Sentences repeated, some parts verie barren and baske, too manie similitudes applyed, and that the Preambles and Postscripts are little lesse, than all the rest of the Booke: and so foorth. I answere to the first parte, that I doe so of purpose, because it behooveth to

bee, for these two reasons: First, although the aged may peruse it, and profit thereby, yet it is chieflie directed unto the Youtb, as of weaker judgement, at the least neither so carefull in using of the meanes to conceiue, nor yet in practising of anie good conception: yea, to manie, who perhaps haue never beeene in a Schoole to learne. And seconde, because it is the first Impression, and therefore requireth to bee the more ample: for if it please G O D to spare mee till this Essay bee censured abroad, corrected, and reformed, I intende to haue the Rules thereof made shorter, and published in Verse, (both for the better getting, and keeping thereof in memorie, and likewise the remnant in better Prose, Language, and Method: for the which respect I haue now made choyse rather to adventure it forth somewhat blockish, (that is, with the Paringes thereon) than to presume at mine owne hand to pare it too neare at the first: for that which appeareth to bee good to one, will perhaps seeme bad to another: and none will denie, but it is as easie to substrack and diminish, as to multiply and augment. Alwayes, though the bodie of the Worke bee somewhat great, yet the Abridgement, and chieflie the tenne Precepts thereof, are as short as possiblie they might. And as concerning the amplenesse of those places, concerning the up-taking of the Penne from the Paper, they could not bee so well nor plaine otherwayes; because, first I bring the most parte of Letters once under a Rule, and so manie as be excepted, do come in by way of exception, by so manie rankes as the Penne requireth to bee lifted: for even vs Latine wordes (to wit, Similes Catus, & Modos,) N 2

standing in Sentences, are coupled with Conjunctions, &c; atque, &c. so must Letters bee conjoyned with others of their owne sorte in written wordes, and that by a small joyning stroke of the Penne going betwixt them.

To the seconde parte I answere, that there is no repetition at all, but where it must needes bee: and when anie is, it is rather by appearance, than in effect: for if one parte confirme another, it but linketh the whole Booke together, as it ought: and what one parte wanteth, another hath, without anie frivilous repetition. Doeth not the verie Sacred Scripture it selfe agree in passages and phrases, each parte exponing another: and the Heauenlie matter thereof dispersed and sprinkled thorowout all: for one parte hath the occasions, or time of the occurrence, or doing of a thing; another the place; the third, the causes; the fourth, the effect: and so foorth. Thus each one beeing first conferred with another, and then joyned together, doe make up a whole and complete sense: for though there bee manie Inhabitantes in a flourishing Citie, yet no man is anie more ordayned for himselfe onelie, than hee can liue by himselfe alone, without the helpe of others: and so each one ought to doe good to another, by borrowing and lending, (giving and forgiving) ~~as~~ Citizens all of one Citie.

To the third parte I answere: That there is no Arte nor Historie, but in some partes thereof the contents and matter is more baske and barren, than in another, if thou wilt enter into particular consideration therof: yea, the very Booke of GOD it selfe would seeme at the first to be, & shiefelie some partes of the Holie Historie of our Blessed Saviour

Saviours Humiliation, and his Sufferings; (but beeing generallie considered, and everie remarkable, worthie, and fertile part , set foreuent the base or barren part , as his Resurrection foreuent his Suffering ; or his Exaltation foreuent his Humiliation , then thou wilt both esteeme the better, & reape the more profite of all. And yet if it had pleased the Spirit of G O D , out of all doubt, bee could haue indited the same both in Methode and Eloquence as farre beyond all other Bookes, as it surpasseth them in Matter, Wisdome, and Valour: and it is indeede so farre beyond them, that it bath surmounted the capacite of all the Philosophers that ever was, notwithstanding of all their Wisedome, Learning, and Rhetorickē) Againe, if thou wilt looke to the formes observed in writing of Artes, beholde but the Latine or Greeke Grammar , and thou wilt oftentimes finde one place more baske, and unpleasant than another; yea , it will seeme altogether foolish, yidle, and without sense, to anie man that never learned such tthings: and that because , both the Matter and Language of Grammars, serue but for themselves, and not for other purposes which occurre in common effaires, wherein bee is best versed.

And as for the Similitudes, they are verie needfull, not onelie for present understanding of the sense in time of reading; but in like manner thereafter, the memorie of the Similitude, will oftentimes demonstrate a newe consideration of the whole matter represented thereby, to mens rememberance againe, who perhaps without the same would eyther not haue conceived it at all, or suffered it to slippe as soone out of their mindes, as it entered.

in: and that which is worse, never remembered thereon againe afterwardes. And likewise the matter of this Treatise seemeth so base, that if there were not some better thinges mixed therewith than it selfe is, the most parte would loathe it as much as they doe Water wibous Mault.

And to the fourth parte I answere, That there is no strong Citie, but bath walles to defende it selfe against the Assaultes of all invading Enemies, and sometimes Suburbes without, partlie for more Strength, and partlie for want of rowme within: yea, & they jometimes little lesse than the Citie it selfe: I liken this Worke to a Citie having all these Saueguardes, yet I will counsell no man to hinder his journey thorow the same, in beholding of the utter partes too much: but rather goe forwardes with such spedde as his meanes may afforde: and while as bee passeth, if bee bee anie wise attentive, and inquisitive, bee will bee informed concerning the estate of all thinges within, before bee see them, finde all thinges according therunto, when bee seeth them, and confirmed thereof, af. er bee bath come forth, and seene them.

VIII.

It is objected, That it is rather the Practise, than the Theoricke of the Arte, which serveth for Students: meaning, if they haue some dexteritie, anie Rudimentall knowledge of Writing will suffice them, &c. I answere: Anie Mason of course judgement, may undertake to builde a roogh Stone Dyke, though bee knowe not the right use of Geometricall Rules: but if bee were

employed to bee Master builder of a statelie Palace, whereof all the Conspicuous parts and Corner Stones, behooved to be engraven and indinted; and everie outmost Stone artificiallie bewed; he would be constrained, if he had anie time, either to seeke for more knowledge, (though too late) or else yeelde and give place unto him that had it: even so, anie Writer of sober skill, may take in hand to write Epistles, Compts, Scroles, or such like; but if bee presume to teach others, or yet bee employed to write concerning great Matters, and rare Employments, he must needes either haue sufficient skill, or else be will be forced (though to his skaith) to renounce the Employment in favours of some other, who hath that which he wanteth.

IX.

It is alledged, that in the Comparations or Descriptions of Letters, and in diverse places henceforth to the ende, it had bene more requisite to haue set downe a particular presentation or demonstration of all the Writ Letters themselues there, than to haue remitted them, by order of Printed Letters and Figures, to the Alphabet, as is done there at length: because, (to the Ignorant) it appeareth botb to bee more obscure to understand, and tedious to practise that way, than the other way: &c. I answere, the Remission is no worse than the affectate presentation, for two causes: First, if the written Letters themselues had aye beeene presented, and so often repeated, all those Rules would haue seemed, to anie of weake judgement, so much the more difficult, botb to understand and put in practise, by how often the writ-

ten Letters, appearing of diverse kindes, would haue
beene pointed foorth in one Page, and in diverse com-
panies: wherefore, I haue placed, and registrated them
all in one place, once together, for the better considera-
tion, and easier imitation thereof, by all imitators, but
chiefelie these.

And secondlie, if they had compeared themselves,
and no Attourneyes, or Procuratours in their names, re-
presenting them, I know not whether the buying of so
manie severall Types as they bee in number, had beene
more sumptuous, or the travell to make them more need-
lesse. And if they will haue them presented without
reason, I may thus justlie refuse them with reason: yet
I will not discourage them altogether thereanent, but
for remooring of this their Objection, and pretended
excuse, in some measure, I haue presented such a num-
ber thereof in the abridgement, as may serue for com-
mon Writing.

X.

It is alleadged, and forewarned, both by Prin-
ters, and others having experience, that the tedious
paines in the downe-setting of this Booke, great char-
ges in framing of Types thereunto, and often Printing
the same, with neglecting all other Effaures in atten-
ding thereupon, will apparentlie exceede anie benefite
that ever will bee obtained thereby; and therefore gi-
ving their advise, To lose the travell which is past, holde
in the expences to come, and let it desist altogether, or
else it will not fayle to over-throwne the estate of the
Agent, &c. I aswerc: It may be, these words bee spo-

kenis

ken in loue, but I intende not to follow them, for two respects, the one Divine, and the other Humane: Divine, because the worke tendeth to the Glorie of G O D, (as all Vertuous workes doe, whether Spirituall or Temporall, and few of the last sorte more than Writing, because it setteth foorth his Glorie:) Humane two wayes, Civill and Naturall: Civill, because it tendeth to the Common-wealth; for there bee few of that nature more necessarie; yea, and to mine owne weale also, (as one of the smallest members thereof) whether I winne or lose thereby: (I meane, by my present use) if it please G O D I winne, it will tende both to my weale here, & hereafter; and if not, it will be hereafter, and not beere; be cause it is my Talent, how meane soever it may bee thought: and insomuch as I bide it not, but doe put it to the right use, I shall escape the punishment pronounced in the Gosspell for the contrarie practise.

And Naturall, because I am taught and perswaded by verie naturall instinctiōn, (though there were none other knowledge to bee had) that it is much better to leaue the use thereof aſter mee in the Worlde, amongst men that can use it, than to take it with mee in a Proprie or Entres-gift, to the crawling Wormes in the Graue, which cannot make ſo much uſe thereof, as a Swine of a Pearle.

Moreover, because our blessed Saviour himſelf ſayeth, that no man having a Candle, (how ſmall ſoever it bee) ſhould ſet it under a Bushell, but on a Candle ſticke, to the effect others may ſee therewith as well as himſelfe. Doth not the ſight of the Eyes ſerue as wel for

the Handes and Feete, and remenant Members of the Bodie, as for themselues? Then it followeth, that no Member of the Bodie of a Common-wealth, was made for it selfe onclie, but for the mutuall ayde and suppie of all the rest also: and so I were unwarthie of such a Candle, or yet of the sight of the Eyes, (which G O D hath so wiselie made, to looke more fowthwardes to others, than inwardes to my selfe) if I onelie shew light therewith, looked, or had respect unto my selfe: that is, if I onelie served mine owne private use, with that whiche it hath pleased G O D to lende for a common benefitte unto others, the more that Hee hath made mee the keeper, or rather the distributor thereroft. Is there anie Steward of a Familie, but hath a two-folde Charge imposed upon him, for which hee must bee comptable? Or is hee not addebd unto two Creditors: first, unto his Master, who both bireth him, and provideith the Furniture committed to his dispensation; and then unto his Masters whole Familie, unto whose use, and for whose entertainment the same is allowed? Then, when his Master dyeth straitlie exact and require an accompt of his Stewardship, may he not expect & looke for great punishment, if hee bee eyther found a waster of his Masters Goods, an hungerer of his Masters Familie, or a feeder onclie of himselfe? So in this behalfe I having such an Office, have the like double charge, and therefore am debtor unto two Creditors: first, unto G O D, of whome I holde the same, and who furnisheth mee with giftes answerable, in some competent measure, for discharging a duetie therein: and next, unto the Worlde, which

which is G O D S Familie in generall, and to mine owne Countrey in speciall; May not I then looke to bee cited before his Tribunall, and not knowe what to answere, if I detaine that to my selfe, which I received upon trust, and got commission to deliver unto others? And when I haue done all that I can, and suppose I could doe all that I ought, it were but my duetie, and I still remaine an unprofitable Servant.

Therefore, let none maintaine the opinion, that I write this booke upon presumption, or desire of prayse, (except in so farre, as I will deliver it againe unto G O D, who is the right owner therof) but upon necessitie: for sithence it hath pleased Him of His goodnesse, to grant mee some habilitie so to doe, (thoough not altogether in such measure as unto manie others) that is, by planting mee, like as it were a Tree in His Garden, by furnishing mee with Roote, Earth, Sappe, Leaues, Growth, Bignesse, and Hight, doeth bee not exspect Fruites of mee now, after so long watering, thoough bee haue manie better Trees growing beside? (And all this, besides manie better Showres, whereunto my purpose at this time doeth not reach.) Surelie it is more than time nowe that I bring foorth some good Fruite, althoough it were never so little a tasting, till it please the Almighty to bring greater abundance to maturitie; for otherwayes I might expect nothing else, but to bee hewen downe, and casten into the Fire: Since then I could not bee but culpable of infidelitie and negligence, and consequentlie capable of the punishment due thereunto, except Repentance should intercane. Reade

the

the 3rd objection againe, (if thou list) because this is somewhat relativ to the assumption and answere thereof. Thus, in the practising of my Exoneration of the preceeding Oneration to some, in my speciall function, I doe good will to extende the same to all, in my generall function.

For the which respects, I will passe stoutlie through al these impediments with this Booke, till it be completely Printed, and referre the event thereof unto G O D, who (as hee bath promised in his holy Word, and as my trust is in him) will make all things worke together for the best unto them that feare Him, and to mee amongst the rest.

X I.

One did propone this three-fold exception, saying, this Booke is 1, but a Common and easie Worke; 2, not mine owne Invention neyther; and 3, that manie haue beene, and yet are in this same Countrey, whose gift of learning surpasseth mine, that could haue done the like, and better if they had pleased, &c. To the first part thereof I answere, it is not common as yet, because it is but beginning to grow common, and it may well bee easie now to peruse, but I haue experience that it was not easie to devise.

To the second part I answere, it is indeede mine own Invention, with G O D S assistance; and if anie bee incredulous, let them prove the contrarie, or else gine oyer

over the cause, and be silent; for of this Universall Challenge, they can pretende no ignorance, since it is neyther anie private Register wherein it is insert, nor yet will anie boasteous Winde, or envious bande bee able to take it off, where it is affixed, (as I hope) for manie Ages to come.

I confesse, not long afier it was begun, I accepted such advise as made for mee, and rejected the rest, as all Writers doe when they intend to set foorth Workes; for Salomon willeth that everie man (how wise soever he be) take counsell when bee interpryseth anie matter of importance: because oftentimes one will both know and see a thing, that another will neither understand nor perceiue, yea, though he haue both as good judgement, & as sharpe sight: but indeede never man read it over thereafter, till it was all Printed except the fore and latter partes, as is over probable by it selfe.

Likewise, when it was presented to the Presse, I desired some learned men to revise the same, who affirmed, that they had Skill in anie Arte or subject saue onlie in this: and therefore would not take upon them to mend or change anie thing therein, till after longer advise-ment, when the first essay should bee published: but indeede sundrie impugned diverse things therein, and reasoned against the same, when time of remedie was past; which reasoning, with some farther of others before, are these Objections, Exceptions, and Answeres, thus beere insert, enlarging the Volumme so farre beyond mine expectation.

And

And I presuppose a good Worke bee devised, and found out by a number, yet it will take the name from the first proponer thereof, if bee bee also the moste diligent and chiefe Agent in doing and accomplishing of the same: because without his industrie, moyen, and procurement, it had perhaps never beeene enterpized, and farre lesse completed, howsoever his Skill, habilitie, and credite bee not aye greatest: Who are the makers of Honey? Not the greatest eaters of Honey, but the wise and diligent Bees, howbeit they carefullie search and collect the matter thereof of diverse Hearbes: for otherwayes could it ever come together, or become Honey of its owne accord? (And yet I hope the Matter, Iuyce, or Smell of few borrowed Hearbes shall bee felt, or perceived in this Composition.) In like manner, the Worke men that are hired to builde an House, are not so much sayde to bee the Builder of the Worke, as the owner thereof, who deviseth the Project, advaunceth the Expences, for materials thereunto, employeth them in the businesse, and payeth them their Wages.

And to the thirde parie of the Exception I answere: but I must subdivide it in two, because I consider it in two Ranks: Touching the first, If it had pleased anie, (let bee manie) of this Countrey, (or anie other, so farre as I have yet read, or heard of) to haue prevented mee, in manifesting eyther of the like, or better, upon this Subject and Character completelie, at anie time this 5000. Yeares, and the same in rerum naturâ, or yet if I knew of another, eyther as good or better, eyther in readinesse, or making readie to bee manifested; it might appear

appeare to bee some motiue to cause mee desist, and al-
leage the same for an excuse. But surelie I woulde
not, (so fayre as I myght) because I am bound as sayde
is, and my Band is as strietlie made as anie others that
hane written, or might write, notwithstanding my gifts
bee farre meaneer: for the L O R D , who is onelie
wixe, disphoneth these thinges, (as He doeth all others)
moste wixelie to everie man according to His good plea-
sure, and will craue no farther account of anie man,
than He giveth him to distribute, and bee countable of.

And as concerning the other parte of the Subdivi-
sion, I honour them for their gifteis of Learning, and so
farre as I am able, I prayse G O D for mine owne: I
will compare with no man, but yeelde unto all men,
(except in so farre as I will studie to defende the sober
gifteis whiche I haue, for His cause unto whome they
justlie belong, that they never bee dung downe with
boast of soome wordes, but rather with actions, groun-
ded upon right Knowledge and Reason: for in so doing,
I haue alreadie sume a costlie Penne, with Vanguarde
and Commendation of other thinges beside.)

There is yet one Comfort, whiche those of greater
gifteis want, that I haue: their Compt will bee great,
and mine small; and if they will not make others partici-
pant of what they haue received, as much for that use,
as for their owne, their Compt will bee yet so much the
greater than mine, by how much lesse they benefite others
therewith: for what avayleth it, if a man could doe never
so well, if bee doe it not?

Lastlie,

XII.

Lastlie, it is objected, that this Character of writ wherein I insist particularlie, doeth not agree in all things with the English and Irish Secretarie, which is somewhat righter than the Scottish, whereunto I most often adhere, &c. I answere, that I could not omit mine owne Countrey forme of Writ, both because it is my duetie to give it the owne place, and it is indeede not verie imperfect; neyther yet to extoll the English & Irish forme of Character (which is now most used) too much, and that by applying the whole drift of my instructions thereunto, since it is not altogether perfect; but I joynethem so together, that neverthelesse they may bee distinguished: and where there be any differences, I both demonstrate them, and the way how they may be eschewed: and so doe studie by all meanes, and speciallie by removing, and plucking up of all differences by the rootes, to bring them unto an absolute conformitie; because now all these threc Kingdomes doe so concorde in one, (GOD be praysed) that they haue but one Head, one Law, one Language, and one forme of Character.

The ende of the Objections.



ADMONITIONS, TO ALL PROFESSOVR S OF THE Arte of Faire Writing.

Let the totall summe of all thy Writing, tende to the glorie of GOD, the weale of thy Coun-
try, and to thine owne profite, credite, and
pleasure.

I I. Beware to write anie thing which may either offend GOD or Man, directlie or indirectlie, or yet perill thy Soule, Bodie, Goods, or good name; though Satan or his adherentes would not onlie promise to bee thy warrand, but offer thee a Kingdome for thy reward.

I II. Bee not rash even in Writing of the spediest forme of writ, but let aye mature deliberation of the matter preceede, and then the action of Writing pro-
ceede; as also in weightie Matters, both forme and re-
forme.

I V. Although thou bee taught by this preceeding Arte how to be an expert and Faire Writer, yet notwithstanding bee more carefull to let thy Skill appeare in the brevitie and sufficiencie of the Matter, than altogether to shew thy Skill in the painting, or needless curiositie of the Letter.

V. If thou who livest by Writing, would GOD should blesse thy Calling, bee neyther covetous to extort

the Rich who haue much, nor sloathfull to helpe the Poore who haue little; but consider rightlie thine owne travells, their power, and doe something gratis; because thou hast both thy life and thy gifts, to doe good unto others, as well as unto thy selfe.

V I. Whosoever thou bee that writeſt, let never the Subject of thy Writing be profaine; for Writing is one of GODS giftes, and thou wilt proue both ingrate, and guiltie, if thou who art His reasonable creature, employ this owne gift to offende Himeſſe; and ſpeciallie if thou be an Inſtructor of the Youth: because then under thine hands they are betwixt looſing and winning; for commonlie ſuch education, ſuch conuerſation, according to that olde ſaying, *Quo ſemel eſt imbuta recens &c.* But as thou giueſt them good Exemples both of Matter and Letter, ſo likewife giue the beſt Exemples of all by thy wife Admoniſtions, Indulgence, Temperancie, and good Behaviour; for according to the common Proverb, An ounce of Wiſdom, is worth a pound of Learning: and it is to bee pitied and lamented, that the greatest part of Youth are apt and prone enough natu‐rallie, though they haue neither farther occaſion nor pro‐vocation, not only to leaerne the Cufe of ſweariſh, drinking, miſpendiſh, and all ſorts of riotous abuse, which alaſe, doe abound too much in the aged, without anie civill punishment or remorse; but likewife to reſem‐ble and commit anie abſurditie or enormitie, either done or tolerated by their Inſtructor, and boldlie in his abſence to make him the Author thereof; whoe bare report will haue more credite of manie of their Parents, than his ſolomne oathe of reſtitutioſ.

VII. If thou bee appointed to instruct others in the Knowledge and Practise of Faire Writing, faile not to attend preciselie upon thy Calling, and the place there-of, so long as G O D calleth thee unto no other Calling, nor better place: but rather ere thou either tye thy selfe unto any place, (except where thou hast sufficient em- ployment, and thankefull Clients) bee affrayde of ensuing necessitie; or yet engage thy selfe in churlish mens rever- ence too faire, seeke, and change for once, to a place mee- ter for thee in time, though it were meaner of it selfe: for it is better to bee bare at libertie, than feathered in pover- tie. Indeede a Grammarien may very well settle him- selfe, because manie yeares will expire before anie Classe orderlie passe through the Grammar: but it is otherwayes with thee, thy first yeares will commonlie bee thy best years, (in computation) and that not only because Writing is soone learned, if it be rightlie taught, but likewise be- cause the most part, as well of olde as young, are so incon- stant, and inclined to novelties, and new faces, that though a mans gift were never so great, they will readily loathe of him, and all his doings, without any just cause; and yet when all is done, lay the fault only on him, and stile him with the Title of Inconstancie. Moreover, if thou bee moved, through mens unthankfulnessse, to require satis- faction of what is due unto thee, as the Labourer is wor- thie of his Hire, many of them will pay thee with a bare alleadgeance, in saying, that their Children haue not so much profited by thy travells as they expected: thou mayst the better trust me here anent, since I haue experience of such things my selfe, howbeit indeed I haue taught manie

of the greatest in this Land, who haue proved farre other
wayes, and thought it well bestowed.

VIII. As thou who teachest the Youtb, (wouldest
haue eyther favour or recompence of GOD or Man, con-
ceale nothing which is profitable for them to knowe, nor
yet the manner of practising: but demonstrate every thing
in the owne time and place, as Condition, Oportunitie, and
Necessitie requireth Performance: for Children esteeme
their Masters Instruction as a Law, and if it bee accor-
ding to their estimation, his practise, with their obedience,
ought to fulfill the same. Furthermore, leaue nothing un-
done, within the bounds of thy Calling, which lieth in thy
power to doe: and what lacketh, referre the suppliment
thereof unto the Almighty, together with the successe of
all thy doinges: so thou needest not feare the Calumnies,
nor detractions of any: for such duetie herein, as thou ey-
ther studiest, or wisthest to performe, thou wilt bee sure to
receive the like degree of reward from GOD, (eyther
here or hereafter, if not both) howbeit mans good worde,
and farre more his good deede, bee uncertaine.

IX. When thou art required to subscribe as witnessse
in anie matter, bee not rash, but first reade, and consider
the sufficiencie thereof: secondlie, see both the parties
subscribe, at the least the partie unto whom thou art cal-
led to giue testimonie, and then subscribe thou: and thir-
dlie, howbeit the matter belongeth not unto thee, yet in so
much as thou art a witnessse to the equitie thercof, fayle
not immediatlie after thou hast taken thy leaue, to write
some briefe memoriall of the same in thy fore-named lit-
tle Booke, (which alwayes thou oughtest to carrie) that
thou

thou afterwardes revising such an article insert therein, thou mayest the more boldly and constantly abide thereat, in affirming of the trueth, if it shall happen thee to bee cited, and required to depone there anent before a Judge.

X. Since the All-seeing Eye of GOD seeth all things, in all places, at all times, write every thing, therefore, as well privately as publikely, in such sorte, as thou neyber needest to be ashamed to reade, nor affrayde to heare read in the dayes of triall: as also, bee loath to write anie thing in absence, but that which thou wouldest not stand in awe to utter by tongue in presence.

XI. Let never anie thing of importance whicht thou writest, goe foorth of thy custodie, till thou also reade it, because no man is so circumspect, but kee may in some points neglect himselfe: for if it eyther haue or want but the negative worde not, where it ought not, it will bee enough to turne all that Sentence (wherein it is eyther omitted, or expressed) up-side downe, and so put thee in daunger of trouble, shame, and Skaitbe, thorowe that by carelessness, and negligence.

XII. And last of all, if it please GOD to make thee so fayre a Writer, that thou surpassee or surmatch others, I beseech thee neither vaunt nor brag of thine own Writ, and farre lesse disdaine any other mens Writ, whether it bee evill or good, except thou be chosen as Judge thereunto, then thou mayest indeede give thine opinion freelie, without eyther feade or fauour: and aliboughthine owne Writ merite Commendation, yet take none to thy selfe, but persevere in well-doing till others give thee the same, and when thou hast gotten it, accept not thereof as a

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XI. Let never anieting of importance whicht thou writest, goe foorth of thy custodie, till thou also reade it, because no man is so circumspect, but kee may in some points neglect himselfe: for if it eyther haue or want but the negatiue worde not, where it ought not, it will bee enough to turne all that Sentence (wherein it is eyther omitted, or expressed) up-side downe, and so put thee in daunger of trouble, shaine, and Skaitbe, thorowe that thy carelessness, and negligence.

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thing belonging unto thy selfe, but unto GOD, whose Instrument and Steward thou art in that Respect; for thou neyther hast, nor canst haue anie thing, but that which thou receivest, neyther yet when thou hast received this amongst the rest, must thou keepe it unto thy selfe, but let the whole prayse of the gift redound to the giver thereof: for as standing water, which hath no passage to the great Ocean, joone putrifie. b, and as men casten into the botome of the fault Sea, and Fishes on the face of the drie Land joone die, so doeth all prayse due to the Creator, which is kept, or stopped by any creature. and why? it is no wonder indeede, because it is out of its owne iwright Element.

O L O R D, since Thou, hast thought it requisite,
This to complete, conjoyn The blessing now,
And it avow, to come of Thy Spirite,
Beeing so meete, a Patterne to follow.

To Thee, O L O R D,
For the which, and all Thy Mercies great,
With one accord,
Bee rendered Prayse of everie estate.

F I N I S



THE PRINTER TO THE
READER, AND BUYER
of this Booke.

IT may bee (Gentle Reader) that you thinke the
Price of this Booke too much for so little a Volume;
yet if you will consider the Causes wherefore it must
bee so, you will allow thereof the better, which bee four:—
First, because hee who selleth it, intendeth, God willing,
to bee readie and present, or one in his name, whensoever
it shall please you to inquire for the same: for it is better
to sell in such sort, as hee who selleth may liue, and keepe
the Town, nor at so low a rate, as he must leaue the same,
and disappoint you, when you aske for such a one as is not
to bee found. Secondlie, if you reade this Booke orderlie,
and diligentlie, from the beginning, unto this place, I
hope you will not finde it deare neyther, but within the
value. Thirddlie, though it were otherwise, it may not bee
solde anie cheaper at this first Impression: because there
is but a few Printed, for an essay, upon an haste, and by
guesse, as it were; partly since it is the Authors first Tra-
vels, and partly in respect of the tedious writing of so
manie Characters, and much Writ, upon each Booke, after
the Imprinting of the matter thereof. And fourthlie, be-
cause the Author maintaynet two or three daylie to fill
up, and write in, all the foresayd Exemplare Letters and

Words, in everie Extract, which is no small travell and charges, in comparison of those Bookes which haue nothing in them, but such as is set downe, and printed all at ones, with one travell. But indeed within few yeaeres, God willing, when this Impression is solde, and newe Types bought, to supplie the travells nowe made with the Penne, and the Bouke reformed, and Printed the seconde time, then it may perbaps bee solde at a farre lower rate, though much better of it selfe: to the whiche time, I entreat you to haue patience, and bee content with it as is is, and not only disspence with any apparent Dearth thereof now, but also excuse any fault you finde eyther in the Author in downe setting, and correcting; or in mee, in the Imprinting: and then I hope wee shall please you better both in Travels and Price. Thus in the meane time, and for ever, I wish you to fare-well.



Imprinted at Sanct-Andrewes,

By Edvvard Raban, Printer
to the Vniversitie there:

And are to be solde in EDINBURGH, by Iohn
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